

# THE JOURNAL

• Thursday, August 19, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

**Sports** Strykers win Dana Cup in Denmark [B1]

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**Arts** Gamelan Sekar Jaya hosting free Bali music and dance fest [C6]

## Ladbroke selling Golden Gate Fields

**Implications for waterfront's future are uncertain**

By Chuck Dybdal  
and Journal staff

ALBANY — Frank Stronach, the chairman of Magna Venture Inc., is about

to add Golden Gate Fields to his growing empire.

Golden Gate Fields vice president and general manager Peter Tunney told a group of trainers Aug. 13 that Stronach has signed a letter of intent to purchase Golden Gate Fields from its current owner, Ladbroke. The transaction is in the due diligence phase before it will be completed. Tunney did not know how long due diligence would take.

Local Ladbroke officials were unavailable to comment, as was Stronach. Terms of the sale also were also unavailable.

Ladbroke purchased the property Golden Gate Fields sits on last year from the Catellus Corp. Before that, Ladbroke only leased the land.

"I did get a call from Frank Stronach (on Aug. 12), and he told me he had signed a letter of intent to buy," Tunney

told a group of trainers Friday at a meeting to discuss the condition of the track surface.

"I found out two weeks ago Frank Stronach met the chairman of our company (Peter George in London) for lunch."

Stronach's main company, Magna International, an auto parts company, posted record profits of \$116 million in the second quarter of 1999. The results

were released one day after Magna International stock hit a 52-week low.

Magna International will spin off its racetrack unit, Magna Venture, which will be funded by a one-time cash infusion of \$550 million from Magna International.

Stronach purchased Santa Anita in Southern California last fall just before

See SALE, Page A8



GARY MILLS became Albany's Superintendent of Schools on July 1.

## New superintendent emphasizes communication

By Danielle Samaniego

ALBANY — From Cincinnati to Los Angeles County, from the Mark Twain District to Albany's doorstep, Gary Mills has finally arrived. He is out to make some changes for the better.

"I just don't want people to be stand-offish because of the title, because that's not what's important," he said.

Mills, 58, has recently taken the position of Albany School District superintendent. The new job follows a turbulent school year, as well as a shaky relationship between past superintendent, J. Dale Hudson, and many members of the community.

Amid lawsuits and protests, Mills faces a tough road ahead, but says he is up for the challenge.

"I just feel real positive about being a superintendent here," he said. "It's going to be a wonderful experience, I just really believe we're going to be very successful in this school district in the next few years."

Mills feels that his role with the residents of Albany should be to mobilize the community and parents in order to get them more involved with the importance of education.

Mills has a long history with the education

See SCHOOLS, Page A10

## State wants to reduce funds for new Albany high school

By Kate Darby Rauch

ALBANY — Last-minute budget negotiations between the school district and the state are stalling construction of a new high school, but officials are striving for a speedy resolution.

State officials are considering reducing by \$4.5 million the amount earlier agreed to give because the district's plan calls for housing more students than the

state says it is allowed to fund.

However, school officials have a different interpretation of state regulations. They say they can make up the shortfall if necessary, but that funding for other projects may have to be sacrificed.

Recent legislation over school construction has changed the way that funding is allocated. Board and district officials continue to sort out the effects of those changes.

The state is scheduled to decide on the funding Aug. 25.

"We're still open. We're still talking. I'm still hopeful," said Constance Hubbard, district assistant superintendent.

The State Allocation Board, which doles out funding for emergency school construction, agreed in 1997 to fund rebuilding Albany High School. The school was condemned for being seismically unsafe.

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"What we're doing is clearing the coyote brush away from these cubicles that they have built up here, and cutting down some licorice (anise) vines and clearing the weeds," she explains.

"We have to do this because the police have to get in here and be able to see at night, and during the day, what kind of activity is going on. It's been mostly around where people have been living. Most of the people are cooperative, except this one lady who doesn't like it at all. She's been ramping and raging at us,

See TRANSITION, Page A10

## Transition on the Bulb is painful

By James Carter

The frenzied blare of a chainsaw rips through the cool morning air at the plateau — a former landfill due east of the cape known as the Bulb.

The plateau is owned by the East Bay Regional Park District, which plans to convert the land into a park someday.

Young people are hard at work as clouds break above. Members of the East Bay Conservation Corps, the young workers do what they are told. They clear away coyote brush and other plants and shrubs on the northern section of the

plateau.

On a dusty roadside nearby, two long lines of toppled coyote bush lay side by side in exact, parallel rows. The footlike stems of each plant face due south like cadavers awaiting burial in a mass grave.

A black and white cat spots a human being on the trail. With its tail standing at attention as it approaches, the cat issues a friendly greeting that is ignored.

Beside the white pickup truck of the EBCC, supervisor Edwina Robinson pauses for a moment, removes her hard hat and wipes sweat from her cheeks and brow.

**BUTTERFLY** rests on the thumb of James Lee Bailey, who is also known as Jimbow the Hobow.

JOANNA JHANDA



## WORTH CHECKING OUT

## School board debate

All candidates for the West Contra Costa County Unified School District Board have been invited to speak at the Tuesday, Aug. 24 meeting of the El Cerrito Democratic Club. The business session starts at 7:30 p.m., followed by the speakers at 8 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury, across from El Cerrito High. The public is invited to attend and encouraged to ask questions of the candidates. For details contact Hollie Weber at 524-8142, fax 527-6212.

## CCCT auditions

Contra Costa Civic Theatre will hold open auditions for "Mere Mortals" — a collection of one-act comedies, directed by Wendy Wisely and Michael Ray Wisely on Sunday, August 29, at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. Need three men, three women. Prepare a short comedic monologue. No appointments. No pay. Performances weekend October 15-November 20.

## Millennium celebration

The Human Relations and Affirmative Action Commission and the city of Richmond 1999 Festival Committee invite you to participate in the 1999 Multi-Cultural Festival. On April 26, the White House and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote to Mayor Rosemary M. Corbin selecting the city of Richmond as one of the first nine "Official Millennium Community." On Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Richmond will be celebrating the new millennium and will be honoring the past, while imaging the city's future. This will also be the opportunity for Richmond to showcase its diverse communities, cultures, rich heritage, food, and customs. This event will provide the opportunity for the Richmond community to come together and display its "Good Neighbor Policies and Programs," in addition to bringing together local businesses and residents in a festival environment. If you are a citizen of Richmond, doing business in Richmond, and wish to take part in this exciting moment in human history — the approach of a new century and the next millennium — please contact Duane Chapman at 307-8017 or Shawn Griffin at 620-8822.

## Stroll volunteers needed

Volunteers are wanted to help before and during the Sept. 12 Solano Avenue Stroll. Postering, half-day block captains, parade monitors, etc. are needed. Have fun and meet people. Details: 527-5358.

## Sports camp

There are still spots available for the remainder of August in the weekday sports camp offered by Albany Recreation and Community Services. Details: 524-9283 business hours, or 559-8208 evenings and weekends.

## New school dedications

The Albany Unified School District Board of Education has scheduled opening ceremonies for the new Albany Middle School and Ocean View Elementary School. Ocean View, at 1001 Jackson St., will be christened Saturday, Sept. 18 at noon. Ceremonies at AMS, 1259 Brighton Ave., will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at noon. Students, staff, parents and the greater community are invited to attend. Details: 510 524-9132.

## A New Start at AHS

Albany High School invites students and parents to "A New Start" on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1999, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the AHS Little Theater and Lobby. Tentative Schedule: 5:30-7:30 p.m., visit Tables set up by PTA, Athletic Boosters, Music Boosters, Class of 2000, students and staff. You will be able to join organizations to support AHS, buy Scrip, order yearbooks, subscribe to Albany High Times, etc. After visiting all the tables, pick up students' schedules and complete school forms. 7:30 p.m. Meet new administrators: Gary W. Mills, AUSD Superintendent; Marianne Camp, AUSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Gloria T. Galindo, AHS Principal; Amy Hansen and Randall Booker, Assistant Principals. AHS staff members will discuss AHS 1999-2000. Board of Education member Marsha Skinner will provide an update on AHS Construction Project; 7:30-8:30 p.m. Same program as 5:30-7.



**EL CERRITO ARTISTS**, including Jack Anderson, whose work "Via Varenna" appears above, will participate in "Watercolor California '99" an exhibition of more than 200 paintings by 12 award-winning artists through Aug. 29 in the Exhibit Hall at Jack London Village, Alice Street and the Embarcadero, across from the Amtrak Station in Oakland. Details: 234-5028 or 782-1948

p.m. A festive event is planned, including food and a few entertaining surprises, to help all begin building Cougar spirit for the 1999-2000 school year.

## 'Guys &amp; Dolls'

There is still time to catch the Contra Costa Civic Theatre production of "Guys & Dolls" running through Aug. 14 and directed by Jeff Seaberg. Summerland lands us in magical New York City with the rascal Nathan Detroit. His motives are dicey when he makes his bet with Sky Masterson, and everyone winds up with more than they bargained for. This classic musical won unanimous raves from critics and nabbed five Tony awards when it opened on Broadway in 1950. Tickets: Adults \$12, Youth (18 and under) \$8. Performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. July 18 and 25, August 1 and 8 only, at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. For reservations call (415) 789-8032.

## Hornblower Ball coming

The Bay Area English Regency Society presents the "Hornblower Ball" on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Arlington Community Center, 52 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. The society will recreate a party aboard a British fighting frigate during the Napoleonic Wars. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will begin at 8 p.m. Costumed guests, refreshments, nautical songs, toasts and period card games will add to the enjoyment. Tickets: \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door. Costumes and dance partners are not required. Details: (415) 531-5775.

## Acrylics and watercolors

"Painting Myself," an exhibit of paintings by Christine Curtis using acrylics on paper will be exhibited through Aug. 31 at the Gallery of the Center for Psychological Studies. Curtis uses a process of automatic painting similar to that used by the early surrealists. Her paintings are on display each weekday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., excepting 12 to 1, at the

Gallery for the Center for Psychological Studies, located at 1398 Solano Ave. in Albany. Also on exhibit is "Dream Imagery," an exhibit of prints of watercolors by Jon Larsen through July 31. Details: 524-0291.

## Y2K meetings

Meetings to discuss and organize courses of action that will ensure human health and safety, both locally and globally, throughout the New Year transition, at nuclear plants and in regards to nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not imposed any minimum standard requirements for Y2K readiness thus far. We need to work fast. We need lots of people to get the word out. Regular meetings are being held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 1407 Addison Street in Berkeley, until further notice. For more information, please call (415) 789-8032.

## Upcoming class offerings at EC Community Center

The city of El Cerrito Community Center, at 7007 Moeser Lane, will be offering a new series of classes:

## Basic Dog Training

This class is for dogs four months or older and may be used as a first-time formal dog training course or a refresher course.

Learn to cut out the frustrations and much of the physical work in training your dog. Learn problem prevention and problem-solving, as well as command work (heel, sit/stay, come, down/stay). Gain a greater understanding and enjoyment of your companion. Positive reinforcement dog behavior training is the effective method taught in this program.

Next session of classes: Thursday, Sept. 2-23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## Attempted theft leaves classic Mustang with a damaged convertible top

By James Carter

**EL CERRITO** — A policeman witnessed a 47-year-old intoxicated man drop his drawers while standing in a parking lot on the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue July 17. After exposing himself front and back, the wretched man turned insult into injury, depositing what police described as a "discharge of nauseous and offensive matter in a public place." He was arrested on the spot.

■ Sometime during the late evening/early morning of July 25 or 26, a car thief disabled the alarm system of a 1966 two-door Mustang parked in a driveway on the 3000 block of San Mateo Street. The outlaw sliced through the convertible's top, removed a Club from the steering wheel but failed to steal the classic car.

■ Two boys in their late teens apparently concerned about safe sex went too far July 26, as one stealthily picked a handful of condoms from a box on sale at Rite Aid. As the second teen kept a lookout at the San Pablo Avenue store, a 22-year-old female employee caught his partner-in-crime in the act and chased him for conduct. The malicious macho man dropped his booty and threatened the young woman. But

when another female employee rushed to the scene, the boys made a run for it, rocketing away in a gold Pontiac Firebird.

■ Sometime between 8 a.m. and noon July 26, a thief muscled his way through security bars installed to protect a Shell station on the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue. Once inside, the crook lifted over \$5,800 in cash and change before slipping out the back window.

■ The El Cerrito Fire Department discovered a large camper shell parked on Eastshore Boulevard and San Pablo Avenue July 27.

■ A villain smashed through the kitchen window of a home on the 6700 block of Glen Mawr Avenue July 27. However the would-be thief apparently decided to abandon a life of crime and fled, a miraculous conversion expedited by the unearthly wail of a home security system.

■ A 45-year-old jeweler purchased what he thought were a pair of diamonds the afternoon of July 30, paying \$1,600 for the precious jewels. The seller — who turned out to be a sweet-talking swindler, was apparently satisfied with the exchange. The cherished rocks turned out to be moissanites — a gem-like object made of silicon carbide, once found primarily in meteorites but now man-

ufactured in large quantities.

■ A teen-age boy, a 16-year-old woman and a 15-year-old man were at a Greenway the afternoon of July 26. When the young man, a would-be pickpocket, found the woman's purse and attempted to take it, she struggled with the thief until he fled northward.

■ On the 6500 block of Glen Mawr, Drive Aug. 7, a 33-year-old man popped a 46-year-old woman with a BB gun. The man identified the woman as his wife by police.

■ On the evening of Aug. 7, a 35-year-old man smoked a cigarette in a parking lot on the 1500 block of Glen Mawr Street. For reasons unknown, he distinguished his cigarette lips, then, armed with a statue, took aim at the statue and bashed the statue's head. The male is wanted for assault with a deadly weapon.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above police report will return next week.

## Nourish your mind; 'Eating for Health' at Summerfest

By Danielle Samaniego

door fair.

Fine cuisines from all across the globe will be at hand, including dishes from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, California and the Southwest.

Carolyn Hernandez, an administrative assistant for IET, says the institution is providing a diverse menu in order to properly represent the diversity of the school itself.

"We teach that nutrition has a lot to do with genetics," she said.

Edward Bauman, Ph.D., will speak on "Eating for Health and Vitality." Bauman is the director of the IET Institute. Also speaking will be Britt Bailey regarding the effects of Bioengineering foods.

A grand mix of musical talent will be provided for the festival. Glenda Benevides will provide her sweet vocals to the afternoon while saxophonist Michael Bolivar backs

her up along with Carolyn Hernandez on percussion. Solo guitarists Sica Star and Tom Parsons will join the band.

Bolivar has performed with Aretha Franklin and Diana Ross among others, and Carolyn Hernandez for Stevie Wonder.

According to information provided by the IET Institute, eating disorders, substance abuse, eating disorders, depression and cancer are in the Bay Area.

Hernandez says there is a fair for fairs like this so that can become informed and protection professional.

"There's a lot of information going on at the festival," she said.

For more information on the Summerfest or the El Cerrito Fire Department, call 1-800-987-7530.

\$55 residents, \$68.75 non-residents. Location, Harding Clubhouse Yard, 7115 C St. Instructor, Pearl Quan.

## Music Made Fun For Kids

(... and Parents too!) This popular sing-along group with musical accompaniment continues for babies and toddlers (up to age four) and their parents or care givers. We incorporate kid's music, finger plays, dance/movement and instruments as well as popular "adult" songs in a way that is stimulating and fun for both parent and child.

Fridays, Sept. 10-Oct. 15, 10-11 a.m., residents \$42 and \$52.50 for non-residents. There is an \$8 drop in fee.

Location El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito.

music, rhythm techniques, music and music theory and ability of guitar is required.

Tuesday, August 31, 7:30 p.m. Fee \$40 for residents.

Instructor Peter Morley

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The Journal

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## EDITORIAL

**Newspaper Phone** ..... (510) 339-0777  
email: journal@kron.com

**Voice Mail** ..... (510) 339-0777  
email: jcreadway@kron.com

**Sports Editor** - Peter Mentor ..... (510) 339-0777  
email: pmotor@kron.com

**Real Estate Editor** - John Snyder ..... (510) 339-0777  
email: jsnyder@kron.com

## ADVERTISING

**Advertising Director** - Heather Morgan ..... (510) 339-0777  
Classified/Legal Advertising ..... (510) 339-0777

**Real Estate Advertising** ..... (510) 339-0777  
Retail Advertising ..... (510) 339-0777

## OTHER DEPARTMENTS

**General Manager** - Ruth Maricich ..... (510) 339-0777  
**Business Manager** - Marci Walden ..... (510) 339-0777  
**Circulation** ..... (510) 339-0777  
**Circulation Manager** - Patricia Hill ..... (510) 339-0777

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JOANNA JHANNA

JEREMY DOROSIN outside the Solano Avenue Starbucks, where his feud with the chain began in 1995.

## Consumer carries on caffeine crusade

By Corey Lyons

Starbucks' trademark green-and-white corporate logo seems to enjoy an arrogant perch atop a giant skyscraper in "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me." Inside, on the top floor, Dr. Evil sketches out a loose plan to take over the world. Starbucks, the evil empire, Jeremy Dorosin couldn't agree more. The 41-year-old Berkeley native's dispute with the java behemoth has been percolating for more than four years.

Since feeling cheated out of an espresso machine in 1995 by the nation's No. 1 coffee retailer, Dorosin waged an aggressive anti-Starbucks marketing campaign that has attracted national attention.

He purchased full-page ads in the Wall Street Journal denouncing the male-based company, asking other grungy customers to view his site ([www.starbucked.com](http://www.starbucked.com)). Though Dorosin is not a fan of going to eliminate big business — a counterproductive, he says — it certainly use some regulating. "I think (Starbucks') objective is to take over the world," Dorosin says, matter-of-factly. "And that's not very good for customer service."

Once a loyal Starbucks, the former small-business owner became enraged after buying two faulty espresso machines from Starbucks April 1995.

But it was Dorosin's third pur-

chase — a \$189 espresso unit for a friend recovering from cancer — that steamed him even more. The machine, which came without a manual, had also apparently been used.

The communication that followed — or the lack thereof — between the angry consumer and the java chain failed to produce a resolution. Instead, the lengthy coffee quarrel is spiraling into its 52nd month.

And Dorosin, whose rebellious Web site has been wildly popular, has spent \$40,000 in anti-Starbucks ads since the dispute.

"Starbucks is not used to having somebody complain about them and be heard," says Dorosin, who has been featured on "Hard Copy" and "Good Morning America!"

"The truth is, we're all coming to the point of experiencing the 1984 world of George Orwell — except it won't be government, it'll be big business."

Nobody has been forced to summon the Thought Police just yet, but some might consider Dorosin a modern-day Winston Smith.

"I fully support him," Mike Dauw, owner of Royal Ground Coffee in Montclair, says. "Starbucks is a big gimmick — unfortunately, lots of people fall for it."

Liberal-minded Bay Area residents and merchants have fought feverishly to keep Starbucks off their turf, mostly to no avail.

A new Starbucks store opened on Piedmont Avenue last weekend. Locals there picketed the site in early

May, and promised to boycott the store once it opened.

And another outlet, which opened on Shattuck Avenue and Cedar Street in Berkeley May 22, also induced a chilly reception from locals.

"I'd like to say that it's just Starbucks, but it's society that is permitting this," says Dorosin, whose book "Balance at Middlefork" (Ten Speed Press, \$14.95), which was published in March, was re-edited to include commentary on his feud with Starbucks.

"If we keep showing that this type of Darwinian behavior is acceptable, we're not helping anybody."

The suits at Starbucks headquarters have grown tired of Dorosin's sentiments.

In fact, an entire chronology of the squabble — called "The Sequence of Events Regarding Starbucks Responses to Jeremy Dorosin" — is available in the company's communication and public affairs department.

The file has not grown since Aug. 1, 1995, at which point the company terminated its last offer.

"We've explored a lot of options and he's rejected every attempt of ours to resolve the situation," says Alan Gulick, Starbucks public affairs director in Seattle.

At one point the company offered two replacement machines, accessories and a written apology, but Dorosin rejected the offer.

"It was too little, too late," says the Pinole resident, who claims Starbucks only responded after the ads started running in the Wall Street

Journal. "It didn't make sense to accept their offer after spending thousands of dollars in ads."

Instead, the long-winded consumer rights activist — who had set up a toll-free telephone number in his Walnut Creek scuba shop to serve displeased Starbucks customers — has demanded more.

He'd like to see the company build a center for runaway youths and stock its shelves with his new book, with proceeds going to the shelter.

Of course, Starbucks rejected that offer.

"Now after years of silence, coinciding with the publication of his book, he wants to use the Starbucks name as a platform," Gulick says.

Dorosin disagrees.

"This book contains portions of the Starbucks thing, but by no means is it dominated by that," he says. "It's about Eastern enlightenment in scientific culture."

Closure has been so elusive that even the tireless Dorosin is beginning to lose hope of striking a suitable arrangement with Starbucks' brass.

But without a full-time job, he still has one sizable advantage: time.

On Thursday, Aug. 5, Dorosin crafted a letter to Starbucks President Orin Smith in which he asked for a resolution. The brief note was sent through certified mail, forcing a signature at the other end.

He's not holding his breath. "The truth is," he says. "I don't expect a reply."

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DOMESTIC  
Sample Discounted Fares from San Francisco (Each Way Based Upon Round-Trip Purchase)

TRAVEL SEPTEMBER 5 - OCTOBER 31, TICKET BY MIDNIGHT, AUGUST 31 (EST)

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# Opinion

## VIEWPOINT

### Public would pay dearly under proposed legislation

By Jim Conran

Ten years ago, the California Supreme Court took a hard look at a law allowing the filing of multiple lawsuits over a single insurance claim case. The verdict? These so-called "third-party lawsuits" were deemed an economic burden to consumers, and detrimental to society.

Despite the wise judgment of our state's top court, and the reams of evidence showing the havoc wreaked by this flawed law, California's personal injury attorneys made Senate Bill 1237 (Escutia), which reinstates third-party lawsuits, one of their top priorities in the Legislature this year. SB 1237 has flown through the Legislature without public scrutiny or careful examination of the bill impacts, particularly impacts on consumers.

When legal, third-party lawsuits allowed the lawyers of injured parties to sue insurance companies for punitive damages in addition to going after those responsible for causing the loss. When the law was in effect, frivolous lawsuits were rampant and insurance companies frequently chose to settle many cases, regardless of merit, just to avoid the escalating costs. Lawsuits soared 76 percent from 1983 to 1987. This also triggered dramatic increases in insurance fraud, which today costs every California family the equivalent of \$250 a year, according to a recent study by the RAND Institute for Civil Justice.

SB 1237 ultimately will hit consumers squarely in the pocketbook. A new report by William Hamm, the former California legislative analyst, anticipates that our insurance premiums will increase

by at least 14.5 percent — or \$1.5 billion — every year if this new layer of litigation is added.

The consumer suffers on many levels. Legislation that allows more lawsuits and produces much higher insurance rates also inevitably results in higher costs for the goods and services we buy.

What happens when an insurance company has to pay for your claim, as well as a parallel lawsuit against it by the other party's lawyer? At the very least, rates are raised. The company might even choose not to defend you as vigorously because the cost of defense is just too great.

And what happens when every business in the state gets slapped with a 25 percent increase in insurance premiums to offset the skyrocketing risk of excessive litigation? Prices are raised to cover the cost.

Finally, what happens when businesses are forced to pay higher taxes because more lawsuits increase the insurance costs for hospitals, schools, police departments, fire departments and other government agencies? Again, prices get raised to cover the cost.

Who pays? Every consumer in California.

As consumers, we cannot afford the multiple financial burdens that SB 1237 could bring. We don't want higher insurance premiums, consumer price inflation or higher taxes. The California Supreme Court was right.

**Jim Conran** is the executive director of Consumers First, an organization committed to consumer education on public policy matters. Conran is the former director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

### A simple, low-cost solution to Marin traffic problem

By David Arroyo

ALBANY RESIDENT AND NON-SPEEDER  
Okay, we have to run through this one more time. Folks, you have to stop looking to the "People's Republic of Berkeley" for the answers to any problems we have in Albany. This is especially true in regards to traffic control.

Has anyone tried to drive around in Berkeley lately? Take along water and provisions if you do. Marin Avenue is a workhorse. It is the only east-west thoroughfare we have in our community. No one will argue that a large proportion of cars travel in excess of the speed limit on Marin, but Berkeley-esque solutions to combat this condition are not the answer.

Adding speed bumps, diverters, more stop signs and reducing the lanes will only exchange one traffic problem for another, namely, the congestion, smog and noise increases associated with bumper to bumper traffic. If you need proof, try driving the length of Gilman, University or Ashby avenues sometime. If you've got the time, you can make a left-hand turn somewhere along the way as well. Not everybody speeds, but if you block Marin, everybody will be caught up in heavy traffic.

So, what's the answer? It's simple, inexpensive (by comparison) and time proven to alleviate the speeding problem. You make Marin Avenue a bona fide, old-fashioned radar "speed trap."

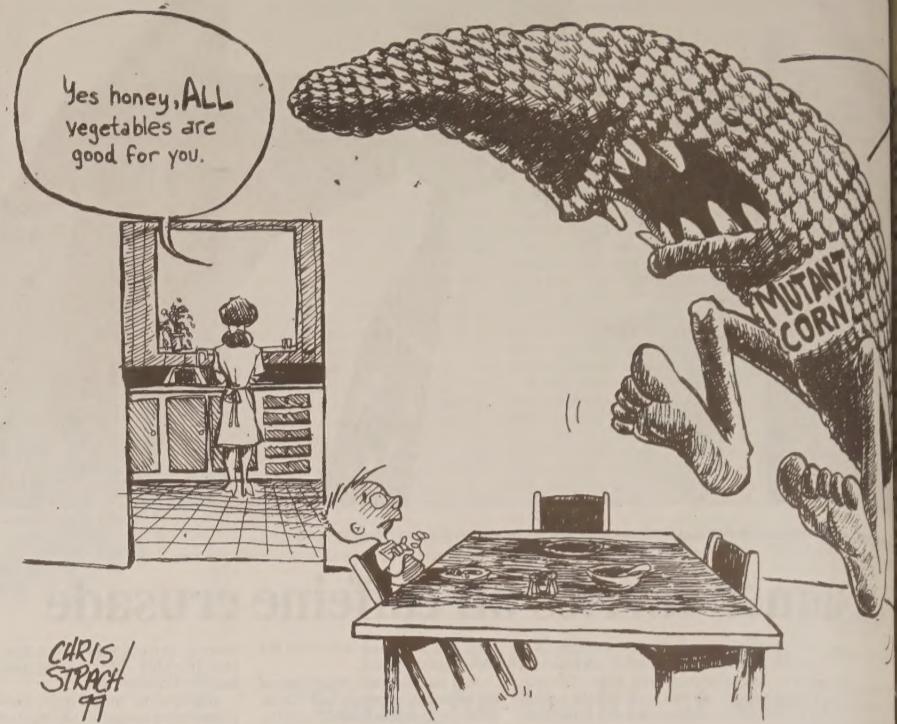
So, what's the answer? It's simple, inexpensive (by comparison) and time proven to alleviate the speeding problem. You make Marin Avenue a bona fide, old-fashioned radar "speed trap."

who knows what may pop up — outstanding warrants, failures-to-appear, stolen cars etc.

Then, you devote a section of the police beat in The Journal to the weekly toll of speeders nabbed on Marin. You have the radar police on Marin everyday, so that there are no "maybes" — if you travel on Marin Avenue, you will, at some point pass a radar car. Once this word is out, backed by a high-profile visibility of cars pulled over with the flashing "red eyes" behind them, I guarantee you traffic will slow down.

If there is a personnel shortage to implementing this plan, then reserve officers can be brought in. Monies will be generated from stiff fines. The city profits, traffic slows down and you might get some people off the street who should not be behind the wheel. And for those who still feel compelled to turn to the PRB, you can work out a deal with that city to bring the motorcycle cops over to their end of Marin Avenue and "set up shop" there.

It would work. Trust me.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Residents awakened by noisy garbage collectors

We have been loyal customers of East Bay Sanitary Service for nearly 30 years at this same address. Your service has been prompt and efficient. Thank you.

However, within the past few weeks, changes in your service have been most annoying.

The change from Friday pickup to Monday pickup was tolerable, but certainly not our preference, because if one is away on a weekend, no one is here to put the garbage container out on Sunday night. Or if it is put out early, say on Friday, it is an indication that the members of the household are away, leaving the house vulnerable to thieves.

Now, there is another matter that needs your attention. The garbage pickup truck now uses its brakes which screech and squeak at 6:45 a.m., bringing everyone in the neighborhood to their feet. Now this smaller truck makes two trips up and down each block, one trip for each side of the street, with its brakes loudly screeching and wailing to make sure everyone is awake. Why is this?

Why can't the brakes be fixed? Why is it necessary to pickup on each side of the street? Previously, the big truck would make but one stop, no brakes screeching. Why the change? Can't this problem be remedied?

Please get the brakes fixed. Please stop only once for each house on the block. Please explain why this horrible noise and commotion can't be stopped.

Wm. E. Battermann  
El Cerrito

#### Manager not listening to community

I had the opportunity to sit in on a joint meeting of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the representatives from the city for a new "economic development" program.

At this meeting, the city manager presented his plan for an economic development program.

Also attending this meeting on behalf of the city was Councilwoman Jane Bartke. Chamber directors had been led to believe that their inclusion in this meeting was to set the groundwork for an economic development program but in fact it was used as a way to circumvent any opposition that the chamber might have to the city manager's plan.

The chamber and the community have been clamoring for years for some sort of responsible fiscal management of the city and for a city that is conducive to the development of business.

The chamber and the community have also demanded that the Redevelopment Agency be put on hiatus until it pays its debt to the city. They have also made it clear on many occasions that they do not want an economic development program that is simply a renamed Redevelopment Agency, i.e. uses the same staff or vision.

In the business world, one would not take the personnel and the vision of a department

or company that has been fiscally unsound and transfer this personnel and vision into a new department or company. Even if qualified, this personnel and vision would be tainted by the old department or company and would be a sure bet for failure.

The city manager has set up the economic development program using the staff and the vision from the Redevelopment Agency. This act by the city manager has shown that he once again refuses to listen to the people of this community.

I understand that the qualifications for staffing a new program, the salary and the vision of the new program are under the direction of the City Council. In this case, the city manager, circumvented the City Council, established a program, established the qualifications, appointed his previous staff and continues to direct the business leaders of the community along with the City Council. Who decided that the taxpayers would pay for an economic development program when the city does not have enough money to provide basic services? Why not have such a program that is made up of volunteers from the chamber and the community?

In my opinion this economic development program is a sham. Any person who sits on the committee to proceed with this program as it has been proposed, is simply being used for the purpose of the city manager continuing to keep control of all economic development or redevelopment of El Cerrito. Why doesn't this city manager listen to the community?

Bob Winslow  
El Cerrito

#### Why has El Cerrito fallen behind?

Like Ms. Chandler, who wrote to you in the July 15 edition, I too, am totally disgusted and frustrated by the lack of progress on the El Cerrito Plaza. This project has been stymied for years by the incompetence and pettiness of El Cerrito politicians. Other communities in the Bay Area have been able to collaborate together to plan interesting and attractive shopping areas to attract merchants and consumers.

Why must El Cerrito residents be forced to drive to places like Fourth Street in Berkeley or the two shopping centers in Corte Madera? The Plaza has great potential. If the current city leaders cannot find a way for the Plaza to reach this potential, let's vote every one of them out and find some forward thinking leaders who can actually get something done!

Gwenlyn Gibson  
El Cerrito

#### An unbalanced presentation

As an advocate for human rights, it was with great interest that I attended a recent panel discussion on women's rights as related to restrictions on choice. This event was sponsored by the El Cerrito Democratic Club. Though more presentation than discussion, it was, nevertheless, enlightening.

Personally, I prefer not to label those of us

who share a common cause; generalities allow for individualism. However, one must refer to the most recognized reference of contrast. Prior to attending the aforementioned meeting, it appeared that pro-life activists were well informed in regards to the general characteristics of the opposing pro-life movement participants. However, it is quite evident that this panel shared a narrow view of those described as "anti-abortion" (their term).

Speaking as one of millions who support the "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all human beings," the emphasis should be on "pro" as opposed to "anti." "Pro" choice supporters are referred to as "Anti-Life" simply because they are not part of the Pro-Life movement.

"Vigilant in their crusade, with no cause in life", as stated by one panelist, did not accurately describe all those opposed to abortion. While of great importance, it is one pursuit of many. Additionally, one must assume by comments made by this panel all who fight for the life of the unborn do so with extreme attempts to deter and to abortion clinics.

References were made to the "real thing" and the "religious right." Statements such as these have the potential to sway public opinion without the benefit of accurate representation.

Please don't confuse us with the radicalism that paints a distorted picture of Christianity. In doing so, it perpetuates the dangerous trend of lumping more aggressive hate-filled acts in the same category as those on the part of more passive individuals who respect the sanctity of life. True disciples of Christ follow his command to "Love one another" — John 15:17.

In closing, it seems appropriate to present a resource as a necessary component to implement the options for a woman's right to choose — something that was missing from the panel discussion that prompted this letter.

Abortion clinics, such as Reproductive Health Services (510-222-7822), counsel and provide support for women of all ages including referring to other need-specific agencies. Planned Parenthood, a public-funded organization, statistical data calculated by the Guttmacher Institute — a not-for-profit corporation for Reproductive Health Services, Policy Analysis and Public Education. According to this company, the panelists do not believe that abortion has become "nearly impossible to obtain and is unfounded. Each year, two out of every 100 women age 15-44 have an abortion.

Significantly, 47 percent of these women at least disclosed that fact that this "medical procedure" is often used as a form of birth control.

Unfortunately, these numbers can only vaguely portray the anguish behind the many women who suffer with post-abortion syndrome — another issue that must be explored.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my right to freedom of speech.

Katherine Wicks  
El Cerrito

See LETTERS, Page A8

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

# Documenting when the day turned to night

By James Carter

ALBANY — Misa Cowee showed few signs of fatigue as she opened the door to her family home Aug. 15. Yet just days before, she was perched on a roof in Rimnicu-Vilcea, Romania, studying a total eclipse of the sun.

The sun and moon performed their heavenly dance over Romania at 2 p.m., Aug. 11.

A member of an expedition sponsored by Williams College in Massachusetts — her alma mater — Cowee went to Romania to help unravel secrets about the sun's corona, the outermost region of its atmosphere.

Grants for the scientific expedition were also provided by NASA and National Geographic Magazine.

Buoyed by the expedition's success, Cowee said "all the experiments worked perfectly. And the eclipse was absolutely gorgeous."

Yet just hours before the eclipse began, the skies in Rimnicu-Vilcea were cloudy. Looking back, Cowee said "we were getting a little nervous. But by 1 p.m. the sky cleared."

Needless to say, that was excellent news for the scientific team that spent months preparing for the ce-

lestrial event.

## A sudden chill

As the moon began to slide across the path of the sun, the temperature in Romania instantly began to cool, Cowee said.

In fact, during the hour and a half stretch of time it took for the eclipse to reach totality — those moments when the sun was blotted out from the sky — the temperature dropped 15 degrees. And according to Cowee, during the 2 minutes and 23 seconds when day turned to night and solar flares raced out from the edge of the moon, the temperature instantly plunged another five degrees.

## You had to be there

"It was like there was a giant dark spot in the middle of the sun," Cowee said. "But all around it was iridescent. Beams of light were shooting out all around it. No film or video can ever capture that."

Everyone was screaming from the rooftops and all around town, Cowee said.

"You hear stories about unusual animal behavior, and things like that, but there weren't any birds chirping or anything. It was really loud, because everyone in town was celebrating."

"A lot of people seemed to believe they could only see the eclipse from the roof," she said. "So people were pounding on the doors to the roof. 'Let us on the roof!' they shouted. 'We're Romanians, we're Romanians, this is a public roof, you have to let us up!'

There was a lot of "hugging and high-fiving" after the eclipse, according to the precocious coed.

"I mean, it was an extremely emotional experience. Everyone was just like, 'Oh my God! Wow! That's awesome!'" she said.

## When the sky fell

Later that night, Cowee and friends toured the streets in and around Rimnicu-Vilcea, a city she said is quickly being transformed into a tourist town.

"There were parties and music everywhere," she said. "Then the craziest thing happened at about 10 p.m. All of a sudden, this huge storm came in with just gales of wind and pelting rain."

"We were out of town and had to walk back to the hotel with just tons of rain falling."

"It was incredible and absolutely storming, with lightning and thunder," Cowee said.



MISA COWEE helps to ready and align a 14-inch telescope prior to the total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 11.

## From Rimnicu-Vilcea to Pago Pago

Cowee plans to rest up a bit for 10 days at home in Albany. But on Aug. 24, she begins yet another excursion, one that will take across the Pacific Ocean.

"I'm going to be studying abroad in Samoa," she said with an enthused smile.

"I've always wanted to study Polynesian culture." The only astronomical problem Cowee will attempt to solve on this excursion is mastering the Samoan language.

When asked how she feels about leaving so soon and being gone so long, she nodded her head and asserted, "It's only for one semester,"

# Richmond ferry service to start in September

Commute alternative offers 45-minute trip to San Francisco

By Kate Darby Rauch

RICHMOND — After a summer delay, a Sept. 29 launch date is firm for the commuter ferry service to begin

between Richmond and San Francisco, Red and White Fleet officials say.

Starting at 6 a.m. weekdays, ferries will depart four times per morning from the Richmond Ferry Terminal, at the end of Harbor Way next to the old Ford assembly plant, to the San Francisco Ferry Terminal. Four afternoon departures from San Francisco to Richmond are scheduled, said Terry Koenig, vice president of marketing for Red and White, which has a contract to run the service.

There will also be two morning trips

from San Francisco to Richmond, starting at 6:50 a.m. On weekends, a few trips a day will be made between Richmond and the San Francisco Ferry Terminal and Fisherman's Wharf.

Each one-way trip takes about 45 minutes. Snacks, beer and wine will be served, and occasional entertainment is planned.

"It's an exciting period in Richmond's growth and development as we move towards our vision of linking Richmond's vast land availability to the region's needs," said Isaiah

Turner, Richmond city manager.

Red and White had hoped to start the service in June but needed more time to complete a parking plan. A ferry parking lot will be next to the Richmond terminal; earlier drawings had parking further away.

Koenig hopes the service will draw commuters and tourists from the Carquinez Bridge to Berkeley. "We'll draw our net as wide as we can," Koenig said.

The company estimates that the service will eventually serve about

500 riders a day, he said, including those who live in San Francisco and work in the East Bay.

"It's not just going to be carrying people from Richmond to San Francisco. We also expect to be bringing people from the City to Richmond as well," he said. "That's pretty unique in ferry service. It generally goes one direction."

Richmond is spending about \$350,000 to build the floating terminal, which is almost complete. Red and White will continue the service

for at least a year before the city evaluates it. Tickets will cost \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Booklets with 20 fares will be available for \$90.

Passengers can buy tickets on the ferry boat or at the Red and White Fleet ticket office at the foot of Taylor Street on Pier 43 1/2 in San Francisco. Commuter books can also be bought by calling 415-673-2900 or by e-mail at [ferry@redandwhite.com](mailto:ferry@redandwhite.com).

For information about the ferry service or for a schedule, call 510-464-1030.

To place a Real Estate Advertisement Call 339-4046

## FREE LESSON!

If the prices of summer activities have put a chill on your family's fun, join us for FREE "Learn to Ice Skate Days"

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# An open letter to Governor Gray Davis

**Preface:** Readers of this column are aware that the Alliance for Public Education has been calling for the State of California to reinvest its debt in educational programs within the school district. The Alliance's Call to Action on Debt Reinvestment has been endorsed by a wide spectrum of political and civic bodies in West County. In support of this effort readers are encouraged to please write to Governor Davis expressing your concern on this issue. Taking a minute now to do so could really help our community's kids and their schools. Below is my letter — feel free to use it as a guide or write your own — draw on your personal experience or those of your grandchildren or neighbors. You'll find the text of this letter and background documents regarding debt reinvestment on the West County School Watch web site: <http://www.igc.org/west-county/>

**Governor Gray Davis State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814**

Dear Governor Davis  
First, I would like to thank you for making improving public education your administration's number one priority. I am very excited about the potential for advancing California's public education system and ready to work with you to make progress as rapidly as possible.

I am a parent with two children enrolled in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. A little over eight years ago, when this year's ninth graders were finishing their kindergarten year, our school district filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. In May 1991, you and the State Superintendent of Education were instrumental in fashioning a loan agreement enabling schools to keep their doors open.

Today, while still beset with many challenges, the West Contra Costa Unified School District finds itself poised to realize major new achievements for the 32,000 students it serves. The community is rallying behind the district as never before.

Major evidence of renewed commitment to our children and schools includes the recent approval of a parcel tax and bond measure, the latter by a greater than 75 percent margin. Just as importantly, individual parents, community members, businesses, and civic organizations are raising their levels of involvement and commitment to our schools and the students they serve. The district has hired a new superintendent, Dr. Gloria Johnston, with a mandate to focus on raising academic performance throughout the district.

I am one of the persons who became actively involved in the effort to rebuild our district. As a parent I got actively involved in my daughters' schools working with other parents in a variety of ways including raising funds for essential school items like paper and classroom supplies. I campaigned actively for the parcel tax and bond measures. In November 1997, I had the honor of being elected to the district's board of education where I now invest major amounts of time and energy to build the kind of accountable and quality school system you have spoken so passionately about.

As the district continues to move forward seeking excellence in education for all students, I want to ask for your urgent assistance in reinvesting the debt the district is paying the State of California in this program of renewal.

Each year, the WCCUSD pays \$1.85 million to the state for debt repayment, an amount roughly equal to the total district budget for books and supplies in our elementary, middle, and high schools. These are funds the district urgently needs for its educational program.

In the eight years since the state bailout package was imposed, the district has never missed a debt payment. Some of these payments were made possible through the sale of school sites which, as our enrollment grows, may have leveraged our future. Governor, you have spoken about making "responsible... invest-

ments in California's future without leveraging the hopes and dreams of future generations." Effectively, our children's future has been leveraged through debt repayments that deprive them of necessary investments in their education. These children's future has been compromised by the actions of adults over whom they had no control.

District general fund dollars now being used to make debt payments are urgently needed to provide adequate employee compensation, purchase supplies, and fund the district's education program. Our district looks forward to reinvesting these funds in the kinds of reform programs you are bringing to the State of California.

We believe we have been responsible and accountable for repaying these funds even though our district was not involved in negotiating this settlement. Today, we must expand educational opportunity for the children this district serves and invest all of our resources toward that end. Anything less means that our children are not receiving an investment in their education comparable to their peers in other districts.

We urge you to work with our political representatives and school district leaders to reinvest these debt payments in our children's education.

Just like with your administration, there is a new spirit in our district. With your help, we can make another big step forward together.

Sincerely...Glen Price

## School Board Candidates Night Aug. 24

This coming Nov. 2 two seats will be determined on the WCCUSD Board of Education. Elections to the five-member board are held every odd-numbered year.

Eight candidates have filed papers to run for the two available seats including: Ron Bolden, John Cruger Hansen, Bob Dabney, Martin Gottlieb, George Harris, Kathy Hennig, Adrienne Pitts, and Patricia Player.

Last year I received messages

The first opportunity to listen to school board candidates discuss the issues, articulate their platforms, and respond to questions will be on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at a special meeting of the El Cerrito Democratic Club beginning at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. (across the street from El Cerrito High School).

The meeting is free and the public from all parts of the school district and all political persuasions is warmly invited to attend.

## Adams Middle School

(Special thanks to Connie Chan Kucera for the following news items on Adams Middle School) The Adams Community welcomes back all students and parents. The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1st. School will start at 8:10 and end at 1:09 (minimum day). The staff at Adams has decided to set aside Wednesday's for staff collaboration day. School will start at 8:10 and end at 1:09 each Wednesday. School times for all other days is 8:10 to 2:25.

On the first day of school, students will go directly to their Homeroom to pick up their class schedules, first day information and Student Planners. Homeroom lists will be posted on the front doors of the two main entrances during the Aug. 28 weekend, and will be posted all around school on the first day.

All entering 7th grade students must have started their Hepatitis B shot series (three shots over a six-month period) and a second MMR inoculation before they can start school. An immunization clinic was set up for students who have not yet met this requirement. Immunization clinics will also be offered at the other four middle schools (Helms, Pinole Jr. Crespi, and Portola). Contact the schools for the dates and times of their clinic.

Last year I received messages

from our Adams neighbors regarding the littering problem. We hope to continue to address this problem with targeting certain areas for cleanup.

We also received suggestions to emphasize the motto of "Being a Good Neighbor" to the students. We will incorporate this theme in our student assemblies. The Adams PTA welcomes any ideas or volunteers to help build a better school community.

**Connie Chan Kucera, Co-President, Adams PTA**  
(E-mail: [connie](mailto:CChan2429@aol.com) at: [CChan2429@aol.com](mailto:CChan2429@aol.com))

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your e-mail address? Send the mes-

**West County School Watch**  
By Glen Price

**sage** [pakglen@aol.com](mailto:pakglen@aol.com). Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD Board; the opinions expressed in West County School Watch are his own and not the official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD. Back issues of West County School Watch can be found at <http://www.igc.org/west-county/>



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## ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

### Albany PTA Council

■ August 25, Meeting with new Superintendent Gary Mills to discuss use of parcel tax monies and other topics, 7:30 p.m., Marin Multi-Purpose Room

■ Sept. 25, Elementary Curriculum Meeting with Assistant Superintendent Marianne Camp 10 a.m.-noon

### Albany High School

■ SCRIP Orders: Support AHS by buying Safeway, Andronico's,

Lucky or Natural Grocery certificates. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429. E-mail Linda at [CHO.PRN.LO@CHO.ORG](mailto:CHO.PRN.LO@CHO.ORG) or Belinda at [Robert\\_marshall@sprintmail.com](mailto:Robert_marshall@sprintmail.com)

■ Aug. 24, "A New Start for AHS Parents and Students," 5:30-8:30 p.m., AHS Little Theater & Lobby. Pick up class schedules, meet new administrators, sign up for AHS student clubs and parent organizations, order PE. uniforms and yearbooks, food and entertainment

### Albany Middle School

■ SCRIP Orders: Support AMS by buying Safeway certificates. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Janet Nichols at 526-6259

■ Sept. 23, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., a.m., Library

■ Sept. 25, Opening Ceremony for new AMS Campus, noon

### Cornell Elementary School

Sept. 8, PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

### Marin Elementary School

Sept. 9, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.,

See PTA, Page A9

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# A look at two extraordinary women in the community



LEFT TO RIGHT: Patty, Rosa and Jesus Alonso (Lili took the picture).

## Focus on Gina's Pizza

By Roxanne Wiley

As of November, Gina's Pizza is under new ownership. The new owners, the Alonso family, have retained the same wonderful recipes and added a few new items to the outstanding menu.

Jesus Alonso, before buying this pizza parlor, cooked for 10 years in an Italian restaurant. He decided that was a long enough of an apprenticeship and he and his wife, Rosa, bought Gina's.

The family has four children, Alex, Lili and Patty. The two young women work at the restaurant after work and school, though Lili has her sights set on the FBI (she now works for the Oakland police department) and Patty wants to be trained as a chef after she graduates from high school.

The menu, which is outstanding, offers the usual fare of pizza, pasta, and dinners of scaloppini both chicken and veal, as well as many sandwiches such as sausage, meatball and hamburgers with or without mushrooms. There are salads, ziti, minestrone soup and even some vegetarian plates featuring eggplant. And the best thing of all, they deliver.

This colorful family and the outstanding restaurant can be found at 100 San Pablo Ave. You may dine in the nice dining area or you may make a call for delivery at 524-3824.

Welcome Alonso family!

### ALBANY CHAMBER

#### Solano Avenue Stroll

We are gearing up for the ever-popular "Stroll." Since this is the 25th anniversary, big doings are expected. The chamber will be selling hot dogs and cotton candy (a nice gastric combination) right in front of the office, 1108 Solano Ave. Lower Solano will be out in full regalia. We are going to strum our stuff with some finger-snapping big band music in front of Grace Baking, T-shirts, pony rides for the little ones, as well as the aforementioned eats, so don't miss us.

#### Earthquake preparedness

EQPP held an information meeting at the chamber July 21. All aspects of disaster planning for businesses were discussed. They provided guidelines in the event that major disaster (earthquake) strikes us and how we survive physically and financially. The chamber will be having follow-up meetings in September. If you are interested, call the chamber office at 525-1771.

#### Food safety certification training

A new law, AB 1978, requires that by Jan. 1, 2000, at least one employee

See ALBANY, Page A8

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Let me tell you about two quite amazing women I have met lately. I think you will enjoy them as much as I have.

I wrote about Jeanette Sarno and her husband, Dante, a few years ago.

Sadly, Dante suffered a massive stroke a year or so after my column about them. He never recovered from the stroke. Alone, now, Jeanette has gone on with the life she loves. And recently she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren came from Minnesota and New Jersey, as well as other parts of California, to help her celebrate that foursome years and ten. They brought gifts of flowers, plants and other things, but the most moving gift is a book put together by daughter Anita, including at least one page from every member of the family.

Letters, poems, memories, and, from those still too young to write, drawings, some well-done, some just scrawls, but all done with love.

I knew her children, and Anita, when they were young, but have lost track of their families. I do know she now has four great-grandchildren.

Born in Philadelphia, Jeanette grew up in Southern California. She and Dante moved to El Cerrito 48 years ago, and became a very active part of the community. Jeanette has a gift for making friends, and keeping them, so she has many.

When her family gave her all of their gifts, Jeanette gave them something of hers. She gave them a list of her daily activities. Her notes be-

gan: "Just to let you know you do not have to grow old, feeling your days are spent in a rocking chair, I thought I would tell you what my schedule is at 90." She goes on to note that everyone is different: backgrounds, ways of living, environments, and intelligence. And she adds that although we all have dreams and sometimes unattainable goals, it is best to be realistic, and make use of what natural abilities we have and what gives us pleasure. Then she lists her schedules:

Mondays, she says, she starts her day by changing her bed and doing a load of washing. Then on to active aerobics. Tuesday's Qigong class "has a calming effect on my nerves" Wednesday is the bowling league (with which she has bowled for many years) and where "the competition is a challenge." Thursday is the chorus rehearsal "from which I get a spiritual lift." And Friday is another stimulation in the writing class, after which she returns for another aerobics class.

Her weekends are spent ushering in the theaters, something she has also done for years and dearly loves. All of this, plus the usual household chores, shopping, cooking and taking care of herself, her house and her garden. 90 years young, indeed.

■ ■ ■

Then there is Anna Neubrunn. Anna now lives in a retirement home in San Pablo, and her life is quiet and calm. But it was not always thus.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Anna

tells of a very busy life there until the Nazi invasion. Her husband, an architect, was a prisoner of war in Italy during World War I. She had a passion for biology, but women could only study certain things then, so she became a gym teacher.

She tells of losing a young daughter who had diphtheria at the age of 8, of losing a son a little later. And then, the greatest trial of all, the Nazis. Her husband was imprisoned by the Nazis, but was released in 1938.

They went to London, then came to the U.S. in 1940, on their anniversary.

### Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

sary.

In New York she taught exercise, exercise with massage, and worked with orthopedic doctors.

When Anna came to California in 1993 to live near her children, she continued to teach groups how to exercise. Coming to live at the retire-

ment.

See GENSER Page A8



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# Contra Costa looks beyond library system with sales tax proposal

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday to study a novel way to fund the county's financially strapped public libraries.

The board, by a 4-1 margin, voted to defer action on a library tax measure crafted in May and push instead for a new one-quarter cent sales tax hike that would go directly to the County general fund for three programs: libraries, purchases of open-space land and economic revitalization.

Future boards would have to be trusted not to use the extra money from the one-fourth of a cent tax for other purposes.

## Sale

FROM PAGE A1

that track's winter meeting. After the meeting ended, many of Santa Anita's top management officials either resigned or were fired.

In July, Stronach purchased Gulfstream Park in Florida. The company plans on developing properties there and at other race tracks they have purchased as well.

### Odds favor property development

According to a July 6 press release posted on the company website, "The addition of Gulfstream Park, together with Santa Anita Race Track and the other racetracks currently being considered for acquisition, advances Ventures' business strategy of consolidating racetrack operations and developing prime real estate properties."

The implications for Golden Gate Fields and Albany — if the sale goes through — are not clear.

"All we know is there is a possibility of a sale," Assistant City Administrator Ann Ritzma said Monday. "We have no idea if a sale will have an impact on the city."

"I hope that they learn from the past mistakes of the previous owners of that property how to be community partners," said Albany Vice Mayor Jon Ely.

## Letters

FROM PAGE A4

### Air is not healthy

Dear Hearing Board:  
I've lived in Albany for more than a decade now and I can remember when the air did not have a caustic odor. Now I close my windows until nearly dawn because I work at night and when I arrive home the air around my house has a smell that I can only describe as something like burning plastic. It is especially heavy when the wind blows off the bay. You would think that air would be fresh air and it is until it gets to 2nd and Gilman.

## Briefs

FROM PAGE A3

Sporter rifles with detachable magazines were sold in California between 1992 and 1997. The weapons

The one-eighth of a cent tax increase measure, designed to last eight years, would have been placed on the March ballot with a goal of raising some \$160 million for libraries only, said Supervisor Gayle Ulkema. But voters have twice rejected similar library-only tax increases.

The measure approved for study today was conceived by Supervisors Donna Gerber and John Gioia. It requires a simple majority for passage — not the two-thirds majority needed for a library-only ballot measure.

A task force will poll interest in the projects that would be funded by today's proposal and report back on Sept. 21.

"If the sale goes through, I hope Magna Venture will take the time to reach out to the community, meet with residents, and consult with them to see what people want. We're looking for good community partners."

Attorney Bob Outis is anxious to learn if the company is only interested in the racing track or wants to purchase all the property there.

A founding member of Citizens for Responsible Government, Outis has played a leading role in a lawsuit aimed at both Ladbrooke and the City of Albany. The lawsuit is the result of what Outis calls "egregious violations of the law" by both the city and Ladbrooke during a 1994 ballot measure, passed by a handful of votes, which endorsed efforts by Ladbrooke to build a card room at Golden Gate Fields.

The lawsuit, still in the courts, alleges that Albany and Ladbrooke violated environmental regulations and rules related to elections under the Gaming Registration Act.

"It is too early to know whether the rumored transactions will bring an end to that course of conduct," he said.

"The primary defendant in the case is the City of Albany," he added. "It was the city that had the duty to comply with California Environmental Quality Act and the Gaming Act. The fact that there might be a new owner doesn't change the fact

that there has been a high incidence of cancer among domestic animals in this area. I have lost three cats and my neighbor across the street lost his dog and our neighbor down the street in West Berkeley lost their cat all to cancer. These animals were under seven years old. The only obvious common denominator was the air they breathe. I mention this because animals are indicative of what humans can expect from their environment - like a canary in the coal mine.

I have recently had toxicity level blood testing done. It showed reactive levels of the following: Aluminum, arsenic, beryllium, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, formaldehyde, germanium, indium, mercury, nickel, polyethylenes. Of

Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, who voted against the new proposal, said he preferred the certainties of the one-eighth of a cent tax increase worked out in May.

Gioia said the new proposal was not a scheme to get around the two-thirds majority requirement and held up a copy of a state Court of Appeal decision supporting his position.

But speakers during the public comment period said "tax-haters" could challenge the measure in court as violating the two-thirds requirement.

Others said they feared delaying the vote until November 2000 might sap recent momentum for increased library funding.

that the city did not abide by the law."

Outis said he doesn't think the buyer would have the right to proceed with development at the race track — including a card room — unless the city allows it.

Jerry Holan, a member of the Waterfront Commission who fought against the cardroom proposal, said "I am very happy that Ladbrooke sold the racetrack. I only hope that they didn't transfer the casino agreement as well."

"However, I am still very concerned about land use issues on our waterfront and Ladbrooke's continued involvement in plans for a hotel in the vicinity of Golden Gate Fields. We need to know more about the actual sale before we can expect better waterfront planning."

### DeBartolo also out of running

On Aug. 10, Stronach announced that he had signed a letter of intent to purchase the Ohio racetrack Thistledown from DeBartolo Racing and Remington Park in Oklahoma from John York, executive vice president of the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp., also is vice president of the 49ers.

The day after completing his purchase of Santa Anita, Stronach came to the Bay Area and toured Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows, which has since been purchased by Paine Webber.

these groups we know for sure that Pacific Steel's stacks discharge heavy doses of formaldehyde, chromium, manganese, and nickel.

Since Pacific Steel has spent a million dollars to install yet another incinerator, it is imperative from the standpoint of the residents - (if not the planet) that they provide a complete health risk assessment and ground level ambient air monitoring on a long term basis so that we can see what's actually going into our lungs because toxic substances are often absorbed and sequestered in various body sites.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Shay Stephen  
Albany

can be altered to hold an ammunition clip of up to 30 rounds, according to police.

The weapons, of which there could be between 5,000 and 15,000 in the state, were outlawed by an Assembly bill earlier this year.

The office reports any owner of

an SKS Sporter with a detachable magazine can contact Sgt. Dave Brown at 1-925-313-2514 to make arrangements to return rifles.

— J.R. Deaton

which always included museums, libraries and other such treasures. Loves showing her beautiful furniture, some of it designed by her architect husband; loves living near her daughter, who, she proudly notes, has co-authored a book about Catherine Bauer, her life and work.

Anna is teaching someone else to take over her exercise class, but until he understands the human body and its relationship to the exercises, she is still working with him, and probably will be when she becomes 100 years old in just a few short months. Another amazing woman.

I have known Jeanette Sarno for many years. It was Bob Scholar who

uses proper food handling techniques.

Classes will be offered in English, Spanish, and Cantonese, starting Aug. 30 through November. If you are interested in schedules, please call the Chamber office, 525-1771.

### Mixer alert

There will be a mixer of grand proportions on Sept. 23 at the California Bank and Trust. Keep looking in this space for the details.

# EC shows gains in '99 sales tax revenue

First quarter figures are up 8 percent over 1998; increased auto sales make up most of the gain

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — The city seems to be doing well in a very taxing situation. The preliminary first quarter report by El Cerrito's sales tax auditor shows gain of about 8 percent over the same quarter last year.

The report covers sales tax revenues collected from Feb. 12 to May 13 of this year, reflecting first quarter sales.

"Key gains in the first quarter were led by new auto sales, department stores and office equipment economic segments," said Financial Services Manager Julie Brown in a report to the City Council and city manager.

Brown pointed out that the projected 8 percent gain includes estimated late payments still to be added to the final first quarter numbers.

According to the report prepared by Municipal Resource Consultants, the State Board of Equalization collected \$464,879 of city sales tax revenues from El Cerrito businesses during the Feb. 12 to May 13 period.

When county and state pools are

added in and such things as administration costs are deducted, the net receipts to El Cerrito amount to \$504,298. This net number is 10.3 percent higher than last year's net receipts for the same period.

Brown said that although the first quarter numbers look good, such sales tax revenue growth cannot be expected throughout the full year.

"It's a positive thing, but I don't know that I'd write home about it" she said. "Frankly, the new auto sales is really the big thing because people are buying cars right now because the economy's better."

"That's really the big reflection of last year to this year — the fact that everybody's recovered, and so people are spending money again," she added.

The report listed El Cerrito's top 40 sales and use tax producers and the list included American Honda Finance Corp., Honda of El Cerrito, McNevin Cadillac Volkswagen, El Cerrito Lighting, Pastime Hardware, Lucky Food Centers, Safeway Stores, Target Stores, Staples, Carrows Restaurant, Fatapple's Restaurant

and Bakery, and Plaza Apartments.

Using figures from the first four quarters of March 1999 (unaudited), Municipal Resource Consultants reported a total of \$1,040,000 in sales tax revenues.

This figure does not include El Cerrito's tax revenue from Home Depot sales, which by agreement with the City

New auto sales account for 16 percent of the total; the 12 percent, food market, recreation products & drug stores 6 percent.

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The nurturing effect of this combination of love and commitment at Sunrise creates a unique blend of care and independence. In their words, "After all, it's their life and their home."

The Sunrise commitment to quality care with heart and professionalism is reflected in their approach to the involvement of family and friends. It is not like traditional long-term care facilities with set visiting hours. There are five planned social activities a day as well as tailored recreational, educational, cultural and religious programs. Family and friends are always welcome and their involvement is wholeheartedly encouraged.

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he says. "My staff has a heart for people and their skills are fine-tuned through training, program specifically designed for Sunrise."

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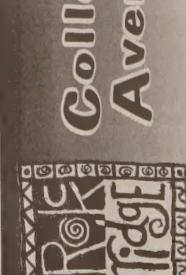


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## PTA

FROM PAGE A6

## Ocean View Elementary

- Sept. 9, PTA Meeting to Elect New Officers, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 18, Opening Ceremony for Ocean View campus, noon
- Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or e-mail [kayweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:kayweinstein@yahoo.com)

## Parking

FROM PAGE A1

C funds to build a garage in the northeast corner of the Plaza to be used by BART riders during the day and by Plaza patrons after hours. Any casual weekday observer walking along Fairmount Avenue between the BART station and the Plaza can see the northeast section of the Plaza parking lot filled with cars — the majority seem to be BART patrons parked illegally on Plaza property. Much of the Plaza parking area will be fenced off for construction this fall and customer parking in the reconstructed Plaza will be monitored and parking rules will be enforced.

"We've tried to tell people not to park there," said El Cerrito Plaza General Manager Janet Jolley, stressing that the lot is private property for use by shoppers. Parking will be even more dear during and after reconstruction and Jolley confirmed that illegally parked vehicles will be fined and towed.

The Measure C half-cent sales tax was approved for 20 years — until 2009. Most people agree that traffic and parking will only get worse in El Cerrito and the greater Bay Area and that it is time to decide how, and if, Measure C funds will be used. It seems it is not just a matter of how we use the money, but a matter of how we use it to make use of the money.

"It's in our court," said El Cerrito's Community Development Manager Gerald Raycraft. "The money is there, we have to come up with a viable and acceptable project from the standpoint of the transportation authority. If we do, we can move forward with the project."

Asked why it is taking so long to get a plan on the table when the money is available, Raycraft chose his words carefully. "It's a project that's going to have to have both political and community support," he said.

Raycraft said some people criticized the idea of putting the Measure C garage in the Plaza as part of Plaza reconstruction as part of the economic development strategy for overall Plaza revitalization. That was Raycraft pointed out, "just didn't happen to have political and community support."

Raycraft urged creative thinking concerning the Measure C garage. "I think we just need to sit down and make a shopping list of all of the different alternatives," he said. Raycraft said some of the alternatives will have "fatal flaws," but, he added, "we come up with some creative solutions."

Measure C funds are administered by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Raycraft said the amount designated for the El Cerrito BART parking is actually probably closer to \$6 million than \$5.5 million in 1999 dollars.

The CCTA has said the funds can be used to purchase land and can be used for the actual parking structure.

The BART parking lot just west of the Plaza station has been suggested as the most likely site for the Measure C garage, but not the only one. Raycraft said CCTA requires the parking must be for BART users and that it be convenient and accessible to BART.

There are currently a total of 517

## Regional Parks district clears plateau

By James Carter

ALBANY — Crews from the East Bay Conservation Corps cleared away large sections of the plateau last week, cutting down coyote bush, aris and other plants and shrubs that once blanketed large areas of that landfill.

The plateau at the area north of Golden Gate Fields, was recently

purchased by the East Bay Regional Park District from Catellus Development Corporation, formerly the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

EBRPD plans to add the plateau — and eventually the Bulb — to a long strip of beach front land ringing the East Bay known as Eastshore State Park.

Asked if the people who still lived

there were a factor in the decision to clear the land, he said "That would be part of it, yes."

Last week, EBRPD posted notice to all residents on the plateau announcing they must relocate immediately, MacKay said. "That deadline has since passed."

"We are enforcing the no-camping ordinance that applies through-

out the park district, except at certain designated areas. All the people who have lived out there have been offered social services in terms of alternative living circumstances," MacKay said.

"There is also a lot of debris and trash out there that needs to be removed."

Last week as certain areas of the plateau were cleared, piles of debris and litter were visible, presumably collected from abandoned campsites.

The City of Albany is not involved in work being done there.

However, a proposal to EBRPD concerning development of the

plateau was drafted by the Albany Waterfront Committee in June 1995.

The proposal acknowledged that responsibility for developing a master plan for the Park rests with the district.

But members of the commission recommended that the northern portion of the plateau — including currently being cleared of brush and other plants — "have a barrier that would effectively isolate the areas of human activity from those reserved for a bird sanctuary in the upland habitat, mud flats, and adjacent bay."

At this point, however, "we don't have a plan for that area yet," MacKay said.

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## Transition

FROM PAGE A1

cussing and just acting like we're invading her privacy, like she's a property owner or something.

"It's sad. We don't want to come in here and do this. But we're paid to do it. It's our job. I mean, I realize this is her home, and I don't want to ruin that, but we have to do what we have to do. It's a sad situation."

Jimbow the Hobow—a resident of the Bulb and de facto caretaker of the environs—reaches into the pocket of his hunter's vest, searching for a smoke. He tries to light a cigarette, but can't. His hands are trembling.

"I can't believe they're doing this," he says, fighting back tears. "This was such a beautiful place."

Hobow wanders off into what remains of the coyote brush, searching through it, looking for something. Moments later he returns to the area where chain saws roar and young people toil. Jimbow's hands are cupped closed, and he's smiling.

"Look at this!" he says, thumbs peeling apart.

Young workers drop their tools and quickly gather to see what Hobow found. It's a butterfly, a yellow and black tiger swallowtail with an iridescent blue spot.

The butterfly slowly flaps its wings, as if it enjoys all the attention. Then off it goes, across the dirt and debris and down the hill.

Oslo Newmann, a frequent visitor to the Bulb and surrounding areas and an advocate of the people living there, dabs the corner of his eyes.

"I just don't see why they are do-

ing this," he says. "I mean, this place is incredibly beautiful, and it's really upsetting that they're destroying it this way. They're just leveling it and creating this barren wasteland in order to make sure that the human beings don't come back."

"The human beings are gone. They don't need to finish it off by just destroying what nature has built here. They so much hate the people who lived here, yet those people would never destroy this place."

Kevin Parker adjusts his shoulders and hard hat. He's been working for the EBCC for two weeks, and it's his third day on the landfill.

"We were told to cut down everything and stay away from people's houses and things like that, but cut everything else around. They didn't say why we're supposed to do that. It's not my place to ask why. It's my job."

"It's very difficult because we have people who come home and they're mad because the surroundings are not there anymore. And it's just frustrating to see people living like this. You never know—hopefully I'll never have to live like this. I just pray for them. I just hope tomorrow will bring a better future for them and I'll pray for the people out here."

Hobow grabs his bag and storms off, angry and bitter. He heads toward the Bulb and its plants and trees, hoping to find friends and sanctuary there.

"The white bone is crashing down," he says, quoting a verse of his poetry. Later he recites the entire piece, his arm cocked at a right angle, pointer finger aimed skyward. In part it reads: "The flatlands are mowed down like sheep's wool. No butterflies, those fools How can any landfill person follow their rules?"

ties to make up the difference.

"We're going to have to look at which projects we have in the budget," Hubbard said.

The state's new offer reflects differences in opinion regarding state law governing the funding of school replacement projects, said Bruce Hancock, the assistant executive officer of the board.

"There are a few items we haven't been able to agree with the district on," Hancock said.

The funding formulas the state uses for emergency school construction are complex and detailed, based on the number of students and classrooms as well as equipment needs.

In Albany's case, the board is paying to house "dislocated" students because the main school was demolished.

The district estimates the high school's enrollment will grow to 1,000 within a few years.

One of the main sticking points between the board staff and the district involves how many students are considered dislocated, Hancock said.

The state will fund school reconstruction to cover current needs but

## Schools

FROM PAGE A1

cational system.

In 1965, he taught English at the New Richmond School District in Cincinnati, Ohio, for three years. He also coached boys' varsity football and track. In 1968 he became principal of Parkway Local Elementary school. By 1969, he became the superintendent of the Mendon Union Local School District.

He was there for two years until 1971, when he took the position of deputy superintendent in the Finney Town School District, which is a suburb of Cincinnati. He chose to take the lesser position because Finney Town was a bigger district.

In 1980, Vic Cotrell, superintendent search consultant of Lincoln, Neb., also known as a "head-hunter" for school districts nationwide, had discovered Mills after tracking his file and began following his work with Finney Town.

"And he said, 'I think you'd be a good superintendent, you're ready to be a superintendent. Would you come to California and interview for a job,'" Mills recalled.

That August, Mills became the superintendent of the Whittier School District in Los Angeles County.

Even though Mills had family ties to the Midwest, he was able to appreciate what California had to offer him.

"In terms of working with a more culturally rich, diverse place why, with all the beauty that this state has to offer it's just been a wonderful experience here," said Mills. "I enjoy it

tremendously."

In 1993 Mills moved on to the Mark Twain School District of Calaveras County.

The transfer from L.A. County to the smaller district was definitely a difference and nothing short of educational.

"I learned a lot from that experience in the sense that I had to be a very hands-on superintendent," said Mills.

His duties went beyond that of just superintendent, handling several tasks at once. "When you're superintendent of a larger district, you don't have to do all," he said.

Mills credits his experience with the more rural Mark Twain District, noting that he was able to develop an understanding of staff members and their duties. Because of this, he says he has become a stronger supervisor.

"When you have to get in there and do it, I think you learn to have an appreciation for things at a deeper level," he said. "I mean I can talk to almost any people in any department here now and I kind of know what they're up against because, in many cases I've done it."

### Seeking public input

Mills says he now joins the Albany School District as a "veteran."

Though the school year has not yet

begun, he is already in the process of developing several different projects for the district. Input committees are in the works as well as a district budget advisory committee.

"We're going open that up for people that would like to come and be involved with that," said Mills.

A district key communicator group will also be forming, which will include parents, members of the community, staff members, some administrators and school board members.

With roughly 50 to 75 people, Mills would like to have the group meet on a quarterly basis.

He wants the meetings to environment through discussions.

The district plans to have a district curriculum council, which will coordinate the schools' curriculum programs.

Mills is also working on a staff forum that will involve Assistant Superintendent Constance Hubbard, the director of curriculum instruction, Marianne Camp, two school board members and himself.

The forum's goal is to sit down with the entire staff of each Albany school and congregate together in order to discuss what needs to be improved upon.

Albany High School is going through its first year of being a new school.

the facility. The school was deemed because it was unsafe but in 1997 the school board, a group that has been working on reconstructing the school.

State officials are continuing to do what they can to help the school board, a group that has been working on reconstructing the school.

Mills says the district is working through the first process of getting the funding for the new school.

"We're almost through the process but then we were come through again," he said.

"I try to non-bureaucratically position as much as I can," he said. "I think it's a good place," he said. "There's a lot of bright young people and a lot of people who are going to go through there."

As far as the town of Albany, Mills couldn't be happier.

"I just think it's a nice place," he said. "It's a very nice place. It's a lot of bright young people and a lot of people who are going to go through there."

He is working on making the administration more accessible to residents of Albany.

"I try to non-bureaucratically position as much as I can," he said. "I think it's a good place," he said. "There's a lot of bright young people and a lot of people who are going to go through there."

## Funds

FROM PAGE A1

The board decided to give Albany \$26 million toward the effort. The district agreed to kick in \$2.4 million from a \$31 million bond measure passed in 1993.

The district estimates rebuilding will cost about \$24 million, excluding costs for moving, new equipment and tearing down the portable classrooms now used to house 800 students, Hubbard said. About \$3.5 million has already been spent on building and maintaining the portables in Memorial Park behind the school, she said.

But in subsequent meetings and negotiations, the board staff has reduced the amount it recommends for the district from \$26 million to \$21.5 million. The district contends it deserves the original amount.

"We're continuing negotiations to work out a reasonable allocation," Hubbard said.

She added that if the lesser amount is granted, the district will have to re-examine spending prior-

won't pay for projected student growth, he said.

"In our minds, that's the reason the project is short of funding," Hancock said.

Gary Mills, Albany's school superintendent, maintains that the state should pay for projected student growth rather than build a school the district is certain to outgrow.

"We do have a difference here about the number of kids that is being requested for," Mills said. "They feel very much obligated to look at what is and not what will be. We've got to look at future growth."

Whatever dollars the district receives from the state, plans are underway to begin construction in the next couple of months. Project completion is expected by fall 2001, Hubbard said.

"We're still very hopeful the school will be built and ready for occupancy then," she said.

The district estimates the high school's enrollment will grow to 1,000 within a few years.

One of the main sticking points between the board staff and the district involves how many students are considered dislocated, Hancock said.

The state will fund school reconstruction to cover current needs but



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## Much 'kerfuffle' about nothing

### Snapp Shots

By Martin Snapp

K, I'll admit it: I once used cocaine. It was 30 years ago, so the statute of limitations has long since expired. And it makes any difference, I didn't care. All it did was make my heart pound, my teeth grind, and my neck muscles tie up in knots. Not exactly my idea of a fun time.

But according to liberal members of the media, that one toot was enough to disqualify me from being President. (Some readers might cite a more compelling disqualification — namely, competence — but that's another story.)

I'm talking, of course, about the kerfuffle surrounding George W. Bush's refusal to say whether he ever didn't snort the stuff way back then.

Actually, I knew him slightly in those days. He was a year behind me at Yale. And he never struck me as a wild and crazy guy, to put it mildly. Upper class lightweight, Cokenehead, no.

But let's assume he did it. So

liberal columnist Mark Shields says Bush's possible cocaine use is a legitimate issue. "Smoking pot is one thing," Shields said on "The Hour with Jim Lehrer" last night, "but cocaine is a heavy

maybe so. But back in the late and early '70s, when Bush and I were young, nobody knew that. I'd been told that marijuana was "the killer weed," and I'd become bumbling addicts just one puff.

When we heard similar warnings about coke, it was natural to assume it was just another official who knew they were right this

time. Bush was irresponsible in his 20s. What guy in his 20s isn't? If you disqualify him for what he did when he was 20, you'll have to disqualify my generation. We ALL did

of one kind or another. (Except Bill Clinton, who didn't invent ancient history. Get over it)

Besides, there are so many reasons to vote against Bush. If he's a more pro-gun, anti-abortion governor in the country, I'd know about it.

"Compassionate conservatism" is nothing more than a re-aging of his father's "thousand days of light." And as for foreign policy, you really want a President who doesn't know the difference between Slovakia and Slovenia. Voting against him because he's just plain silly.

Other political news, are you for the power Yiddish word? It's "kerfuffle." I first heard it when I was in the capital in June. It was on someone's lips (usually with a bad accent), and they used it synonymously for a tizzy. For instance, Maureen Dowd's in the New York Times, read, "Jeffrey Toobin is a kerfuffle when he wrote in the New Yorker that President Clinton was interested in running for Senate from Arkansas in 1996." Since then, I've heard "kerfuffle" a

I know what you're thinking: "Is this guy a fuddy-duddy or what?"

And you could be right. Maybe I'm just a dinosaur, helplessly hanging on to the habits of yester-

year. Maybe rules of language are as obsolete as buggy whips, 8-track tapes and compassion for the poor.

But I think it's as important to say what you mean as it is to mean

what you say, even in small things. That's called straight talk. And you know what the opposite is, don't you? It's called "spin."

But maybe I should change the subject. I don't want to cause a kerfuffle.

Phone Martin Snapp at (510) 273-9039; write him c/o Hill Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail him at catman@california.com.

file" used by Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw, and NPR's Mara Liasson on "Washington Week In Review."

Now, I'm Jewish. And I heard a fair share of Yiddish words around the house when I was growing up. But never, ever, did I hear "kerfuffle."

But, conscientious reporter that I am, I didn't want to leave it at that. So I called Seymour Fromer, founder of the Judah P. Magnes Museum in Berkeley. And "kerfuffle" was news to him, too.

Then I called Riva Gambert, the Culture and Education director at the Jewish Federation in Oakland. She'd never heard of "kerfuffle." Either. Neither had a friend of hers, who teaches Yiddish.

"It sounds to me like what I call 'Merv Griffin Yiddish,'" said Gambert. "You know, the kind of words celebrities say on TV talk shows."

Ironically, there already is a bona fide Yiddish word for the same thing: "tsimmis," which literally means "stew."

But unfortunately, it's losing to an inferior imitation — much as Betamax lost to VCRs and Macintosh lost to Windows.

Speaking of words that drive me up the wall, No. 1 on my hit list is "decimate." Just last week, I heard Peter Jennings use it when he said, "The Nazis decimated the Jewish population of Europe."

No, Peter, they did a lot worse than that. "Decimate" means to kill one in ten.

It comes from the days of ancient Rome, when units that displayed cowardice in battle were punished by cutting off every tenth man and killing them. (The Romans considered it to be a great morale-booster.)

Pet peeve No. 2 is "disinterested," which is incorrectly used to mean "uninterested" — i.e., apathetic. This really sets my fillings on edge, because "disinterested" is such a great word in its own right. It means "fair" or "impartial" — i.e., that you don't have a personal or financial interest in the outcome.

In other words, a good judge should never be uninterested in the trial, but she should always be disinterested.

Which brings us to No. 3: "I could care less." If you could care less, doesn't that mean that you currently care a good deal? It's probably the opposite of what you meant to say; namely, that you couldn't care less.

No. 4 is that favorite of pundits, politicians and PTA leaders: "pro-active," which they use to mean the opposite of "reactive." It's embarrassing to have to point out that there already is a perfectly good opposite of "reactive." It's "active."

Rounding out the Top 5 is "literally," as in, "That movie was so good, I was literally blown away." Oh really? And did it hurt much when you landed?



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# Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal

August 19, 1999

Section B

**On the Go** Bay Area Realtor leads historic delegation to Middle East [B4]

**Special Olympics** Fine dining meets sports challenge in Alameda [B5]

**Market Watch** Rising rates keep borrowers on edge [B6]

## Agents say buyer, seller do better not to meet

Emotions can run high on both sides of critical transaction; mistakes sink deals

**R**eal estate agents usually caution sellers to disappear when their home is shown to a potential buyer. Buyers are often told that mum is the word if they happen to run into the sellers during the course of a showing.

Why are agents so reluctant to let buyers and sellers get together? Most agents caution against buyers and sellers dealing directly because of the emotional nature of the home sale transaction.

Unlike other business deals, the sale of a home can get personal. Sellers often have what real estate agents call "pride of ownership." When this is the case, an objective criticism of a property by the buyers can be misinterpreted as a personal insult by some sellers.

Changing one's home is stressful for both buyers and sellers. It's a time of uncertainty. Therefore, it's almost impossible to keep emotionalism out of a home sale transaction.

Most real estate agents have a horror story or two of what can happen when buyers and sellers meet. If an off-handed remark made by one party is misinterpreted by the other, this can lead to tension, and sometimes to the collapse of the negotiations.

Sellers who don't want to deal directly with buyers list their homes for sale with real estate agents. These sellers want an "arms-length" transaction with a real es-

### Real Estate Forum



**By Dian Hymer**  
"But a real estate agent can get in the way of a successful negotiation if the agent is a poor communicator..."

tate agent, or agents, acting as the intermediary.

If you're trying to buy a For Sale by Owner (FSBO), you may have no alternative but to deal directly with the sellers. In this case, it may be worthwhile to hire a real estate agent, or real estate attorney, to help you with the negotiations.

Sometimes, however, a real estate agent gets in the way of a successful negotiation. If this happens, it's usually because the agent is a poor communicator, or because the agent is trying to act as the decision maker. To avoid this problem, pick your real estate agent carefully.

Suppose you do pick your agent carefully but the negotiations bog down. The

See TALKS, Page B13



PEACH BLOSSOM by Sonia Gill is on display at the Read Oak gallery through October 22.

## Nature takes on new life in show

Light and color are the dominant themes in the watercolor landscape paintings of Berkeley artist Sonia Gill. Strong contrasts and intense colors evoke deep emotional responses from the viewer. Gill

focuses on the intimate landscapes of her garden and her orchard. In Gill's landscapes, vistas transcend the traditional landscape genre and touch the universal.

Art lovers can see Gill's latest show,

"Orchard Series," up close and personal at Red Oak Realty's art gallery in Berkeley. During this exhibit, Gill will donate

See ORCHARD, Page B8

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Delightful! 1

# Bay Area historical societies put region in perspective

From staff reports

**N**ew to the Bay Area? Want to get to know it better? We have compiled an overview of must-see historical societies, museums and sites to get you talking the talk and walking the walk. If you're going on our tour, you'd better pack a lunch — with so much to see and to do in the Bay Area, this could take a while! Enjoy!

## Albany

**A**lbaney Historical Archives. For years this fascinating collection of photos and documents was in the home of the late Catherine Webb, the city's longtime historian. Today the collection is at the Albany Library, which displays some and has much of the material available for research. 510-526-3720.

## Berkeley

**B**erkeley Historical Society. The society offers walking tours during the Spring and Fall, usually Sunday mornings and runs the **Berkeley Historical Society Museum**. Permanent and changing exhibits. 1 to 4 p.m.



## TARPOFF AND TALBERT

**T**rue Experiences in Real Estate' is on vacation

## El Cerrito

**E**l Cerrito Historical Society meets on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October. Artifacts and documents can be found at

## Pinole

the Public Library, 6500 Stockton Ave. Box 304, El Cerrito, 94530, or call Art Schroeder at 510-525-0177.

## El Sobrante

**D**ynamite Plant. A few remnants of the old dynamite plant, which started operations in 1881 and gave the city its reason for being, can still be seen between San Pablo Avenue and the Bay. During World War II, the plant produced about a million pounds of dynamite a month and employed around 350 people. The plant closed in the 1970s.

On the hill just above the plant are its former headquarters buildings, and the Historic Clubhouse, which is used for community events.

## Point Pinole

**T**he Pinole Historical Society meets several times a year, runs occasional field trips and publishes a newsletter. The society houses its collection of local newspapers, which date from 1896, at the Pinole Library, and its other collections in a historic caboose at the Fernandez Mansion. Call Nina Zeitler, president, at 510-758-5324.

**D**owner Mansion. Built in 1905, this two-story Victorian-style house belonged to Edward M. Downer, who published the Pinole Weekly Times, served as postmaster and city clerk, helped incorporate the city in 1903, founded the Bank of Pinole in 1905, and served as mayor. The home is not open to the public. 2711 San Pablo Ave.

**P**inole Valley Park. This attractive 231-acre park (developed in 1986), with playing fields, picnic sites

and wooded trails, is more historic than it looks. Huchiun Indians lived along the creek before Europeans arrived, and two of the best preserved prehistoric Indian sites in the county are in the park. Ruins of the old Don Ygnacio Martinez adobe are buried in the park to protect it from vandals. Martinez, a military commander, was the original owner of the Rancho El Pinole, which he received as a land grant from the Spanish. He settled in Pinole in the mid-1820s. Pinole Valley road at Savage Avenue.

## Port Costa

The entire tiny town of Port Costa is so historic — and so easy to take in at a glance — it's hard to select a single point as paramount. The town boomed in the 1870s and '80s as a major grain shipping center and filled with hotels, bars and worse.

Remains of the grain wharves and warehouse offices can be found at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline. 19th Century commercial buildings and homes remain along Canyon Lake Drive (the Burlington Hotel dates from 1879). The Port Costa School is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Richmond

**R**ichmond History Room. The Richmond Collection at the main branch of the Richmond Public Library has a reference collection of historical documents, a clipping file, pamphlets and more, available by appointment by calling Linda Holmes. There is also a circulating collection of books about Richmond at 510-232-4737.

**T**he Richmond Museum of History, formerly the city's Carnegie Library, houses artifacts that trace the history of the greater Richmond area. The modern city got its start, the story goes, in 1895 when Oakland real estate promoter A.S. Macdonald, slogging through marshes near Point Richmond looking for ducks, noticed the city's potential for shipping and rail.

Farm tools, a vintage kitchen, bedroom, parlor and old-time school are all on display. Nevin Avenue at Fourth Street. 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. 510-235-7387.

## Point Richmond

Point Richmond.

The city's oldest neighborhood retains many 19th and early 20th Century commercial and residential buildings, and a real flavor of the past. The Point Richmond Museum, in the center of town, has been restored to its original 1903 appearance. The Point Richmond History Association meets five times a year and publishes a newsletter, This Point in Time. The museum is open 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays. 139 1/2 Washington Ave. Call Betty Dornan at 510-232-4737.

**T**he Red Oak Victory. This World War II Victory ship, built in Kaiser's Shipyard One in Richmond in 1944, is moored along the waterfront and under restoration. It is one of the last of 747 mostly Liberty and Victory ships built at the Kaiser shipyards

during World War II. The Maritime Administration, in 1996. The goal is to turn floating museum. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1000 Garry Boulevard, Alameda. 510-656-6561.

**Rodeo**

Today, the Rodeo is quiet and muddy harbor in the mid part of the century, a bustling center for sportfishing, the port of the busiest in the Bay.

It remains a pleasure, however. Lone Tree Point Park District reg

offers a particularly

**San Pablo**

The San Pablo Historical Society runs the Alvarado Inn, the Blume House Museum monthly, and offers a history of San Pablo, for

and clubs. Call 234-2518 or 510-234-2518.

**This roundup** section of the Focus section of the Times. We are reprinting service to Hills New who may be curious about the surrounding reg

of the surrounding reg

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OAKLAND

RICHMOND. Some in neighborhood. 2+ bedrooms, setup, detached garage. Call 520-260. Kitte Wm, 747-1440.

NEWLY REFURBISHED 2 bedroom home, spacious living & dining room, and a walk area in the 2+ car garage. Moon Tam, 747-1620.

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**RICHMOND**

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We would like to express our ongoing appreciation to our East Bay clients and the real estate community for their buyer and seller referrals to our San Francisco office.

**Jim Hedges**

Manager/Realtor

(415) 921-0113 office

(510) 287-9001 v

Jim has been serving the East Bay & SF for 18 years

Prudential California

If you are interested in a career in Real Estate, call Jim Hedges

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Real Estate & Home

A Weekly Publication

of Hills Newspapers, Inc.

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# Take the mystery out of closing, title costs

Real estate commissions, appraisal and loan fees and escrow charges each take a toll

It's the big day. The day you go to the title or escrow company, sign your name on the dotted line, hand over a check and prepare to take ownership of your new home.

It's also the day that you and the seller will pay "closing" or settlement costs, an accumulation of separate charges paid to different entities for the professional services associated with the buying and selling of real property.

It's too often a day filled with uncertainty and stress.

To help you better understand this confusing subject, the California Land Title Association has answered some of the questions most commonly asked about title, closing and closing costs.

What services will I be paying for when I pay closing costs?

You will usually be paying for such things as real estate commissions, appraisal fees, loan fees, escrow charges, advance payments such as property taxes and homeowner's insurance, title insurance premiums, pest inspections and the like.

Will I be allowed to write a personal check to cover my closing costs?

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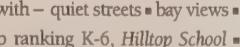
What's so special about Kensington?

It's a one square mile enclave with quiet streets, bay views, small town ambience, a top ranking K-6, Hilltop School, a community newspaper, the Outlook, an excellent library, safe places where families grow, friendships thrive and home owners benefit from low property taxes / no city transfer tax

A fine Kensington home is coming soon.

3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths

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James Garcia

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## From August 19

**Real estate classes.** Merritt College offers eight different real estate classes for the upcoming fall semester, which begins August 19. Included are courses in real estate principles, law, practice, finance (beginning and advanced), appraisals (beginning and advanced) and property management. Courses may be taken concurrently and cost \$36 each. 45 hours of Department of Real Estate Continuing Education for qualified licensees is offered for completion of some courses. Merritt College offers an AA degree in real estate as well as a certificate in real estate. Call 510-436-2409 for more information.

## Wednesday, September 29

**Preparedness:** Drainage and slope slide show and talk. First in a three-part series by local contractor and Hills newspaper columnist Don Pearman on disaster preparedness for homeowners, contractors and designers, featuring solutions to drainage and slope concerns. Fee is \$3. Builders Booksource, 1817 Fourth St., Berkeley. Call 800-843-2028 for reservation.

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You can have it all! In this home, built in 1927, you're within walking distance of Rockridge Bart, gourmet restaurants and College Avenue's specialty shops. Here are the particulars:

- Welcoming entry hall
- Living room with fireplace
- Formal dining room
- Three bedrooms, one bath

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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## Junior League survey inspired S.F. movement

## Landmark legislation preserves city's architectural heritage

Part four of four parts

I became interested in the documentation and preservation of a specific historic architecture in the Bay Area as a history major at UC Berkeley in the mid-1970s. When I went to libraries in search of books on this topic, I noticed there were only a handful in print.

The dearth of literature on historic buildings in the East Bay fueled my desire to write a book on the subject (which was published in 1979). Still, I was impressed by one book in particular about San Francisco's architectural heritage:

"Here Today" (1968) was a visual survey of San Francisco's outstanding historic buildings, conducted by the city's chapter of the Junior League. This was the first such survey of historic architecture in the Bay Area, and it had a major impact on the preservation movement in San Francisco.

## Impact

The Junior League's architectural survey generated a great deal of interest in enacting legislation to ensure the survival of the historic treasures which it had documented.

As a response to this interest, the San Francisco board of supervisors passed Article 10 of the City Planning Code in 1967, making theirs the first Bay Area community to pass a local historic preservation ordinance.

Article 10 was titled "Preservation of Historical and Aesthetic Landmarks. According to board member Don Andreini, editor of the newsletter for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, it has been amended several times: twice in the early 1970s and most recently in 1996.

Article 10 is interpreted by the

## IN FOCUS

## The Heritage

The Heritage, a non-profit group, was formed in 1971 to research and document San Francisco's historic architecture and lobby for its preservation.

- Updated black and white kitchen
- Hardwood floors in many rooms
- Private back yard with deck
- One-car detached garage
- Large attic — expansion potential
- Basement with laundry room

For information, call Fatima Ali, Realtor associate, at 510-849-5315.

## Owning a Piece of History



By Mark Wilson

Mark's series on Bay Area preservation ordinances wraps up in Fog City.

Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Article 11 was also passed by the County Board of Supervisors, at the urging of San Francisco's Architectural Heritage in 1985. It is entitled "Preservation of Buildings and Districts of Architectural and Historic Importance" in downtown San Francisco.

## How the articles work

The Landmarks Advisory Board has nine members, all appointed by the mayor and unpaid. Their terms are four years long, and serve at the pleasure of the mayor. The Advisory Board reports its recommendations on historic landmarks to the City Planning Commission.

Any individual or organization can submit a nomination for a building, district, or site to become a City Landmark. All such nominations are first reviewed by the staff of the Planning Commission to make sure they are complete.

Then the Advisory Board considers the nomination, including taking public testimony. If they agree, they forward their nomination to the full Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission then reviews the Advisory Board's recommendation and holds a public hearing. From there, the final step is for the full San Francisco County Board of Supervisors to vote on the nomination.

Finally, the mayor has to sign the nomination for the building or site to become an official City Landmark.

Only once in the history of San Francisco has a mayor refused to sign off on a City Landmark nomination that had been approved by the Board of Supervisors. That was in 1993, when Mayor Frank Jordan refused to approve the designation of the Korean Methodist Church at 1123 Powell St. as a historic landmark.

## FOLLOW THE SERIES

■ Last week: We explored the history and features of Alameda's historic preservation ordinance.

■ Today: Let's turn to the origins, extent, and workings of San Francisco's historic landmarks legislation, as well as some encouraging success stories for recently designated landmarks in the fabled city by the bay.

■ Next week: Controversy surrounds a proposed landmarks ordinance for the City of Palo Alto. Preservationists there see an urgent need for such legislation. We will explore the reasons they are fighting for it.

mark. This decision stemmed from lobbying by some church officials, who wanted to sell the building to a developer.

■ Where are the landmarks? There are about 225 City landmarks and 10 historic districts in San Francisco.

Most of the privately owned landmarks only have their exteriors — not their interiors — designated, according to Don Andreini of San Francisco Heritage. An exception to this

is the Palace Hotel on Market Street, which has both its interior and exterior designated as a City Landmark. The publicly owned landmark buildings have both exterior and interior designations.

## Want to demolish a landmark?

Anyone who wants to obtain a permit for exterior alterations or demolition of a City Landmark must apply for a certificate of appropriateness from the Landmarks Board, according to Andreini.

The Board then has the authority to delay any demolition or alteration permit for up to 180 days while they review the application.

If an owner disagrees with the Planning Commission's decision, he or she can appeal it to the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors then can delay demolition or alteration for another 180 days while they hold hearings on the owner's application. According to Andreini, no building in San Francisco has been demolished after being declared a City Landmark.

## The lost landmark

The only designated San Francisco landmark that has ever been lost was the Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, a wooden Victorian Gothic masterpiece built in 1886 at Gough and Eddy Streets. It was destroyed by fire in 1995. The site remains an empty lot.

See PRESERVE, Page B13

## OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



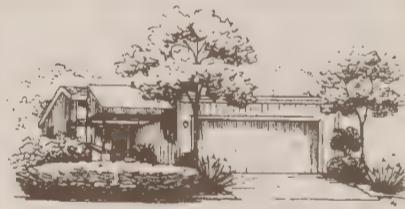
## 1015 Glendora Avenue, Oakland

Grand and elegant brown shingle. Spacious formal rooms, bay windows, fabulous kitchen, sun porch, two bedrooms, one bath & large non-conforming apartment. Offered at \$425,000.

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Office/510.339.0400  
Home/510.832.7800  
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## NEW LISTING • OPEN SUN • AUGUST 22 • 2-4:30



## 197 SAMARIA LANE

Oakland Hills townhouse with partial Bay views and a serene outlook. This desirable end unit offers two master suites with deck access, fireplace, 2 car attached garage, and kitchen with built-in office area.

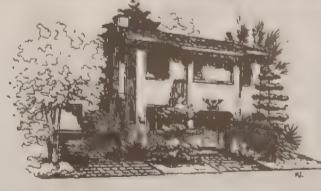
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**Michelle Miller**  
Bus: (510) 339-6460 ext. 335  
Res: (510) 569-7178

## PACIFIC UNION

## Just Listed • Open Sun, Aug. 22 • 2-4:30



## 4225 Glen Avenue, Oakland

Rare Piedmont Avenue find! Hidden away on a cul-de-sac, this sophisticated home features a fabulous new kitchen and baths, family room, and French doors to enchanting garden. 3 spacious bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 1-car detached garage.

Offered at \$385,000



**Joan Dark**  
Bus. (510) 339-6460 x 316

## PACIFIC UNION

**BY APPOINTMENT**

**16 Scenic Avenue, Piedmont**  
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Anian Pettit Tunney, C.R.S.  
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## PROFESSIONALS ON THE GO

## Realtor leads U.S. business delegation to Middle East

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

RICHMOND — WCCAR Member and Director of Education Magany Abbass, JD, CRS, will lead a group of lawyers, economic and real estate professionals this November to Beirut, Amman, Jerusalem and Paris.

The delegation is traveling under the auspices of the People to People Ambassador Program, a branch of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Foundation.

People to People promotes friendly relations among all countries through the medium of scientific, professional and technical exchange. Face to face communications allows colleagues from different countries to discuss common problems, compare recent findings, and evaluate areas for further collaborative efforts.

The informal exchange of ideas that is characteristic of such meetings fosters understanding of political and cultural differences and an understanding of each other's perspectives.

Abbass is one of a minority of women who have led such a delegation for the Foundation. Abbass is a graduate of John F. Kennedy Uni-

versity School of Law and a member of the Contra Costa Bar Association. She is also a seasoned Real Estate Broker with Security Pacific Real Estate in Richmond. She volunteers her time to both associations. "It is my personal responsibility and conviction to foster goodwill in our ever expanding global family," says Abbass.

Through a series of meetings and site visits with economic development and real estate investment counterparts, delegates will discuss topics of mutual interest including: labor force, future growth, investment opportunities, laws and regulations, international cooperation, real estate development and financing.

The delegates also will have the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Hoss of Lebanon, representatives from the Beirut office of the United Nations, with Patrick Syring



Abbass

at the American Embassy and Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, Ryhad Salami. Abbass works with the Royal Palace in Amman on a meeting with Queen Noor of Jordan. In Jerusalem, the delegation will visit holy sites and the Peres Center for Peace.

For more than 30 years, the Ambassador Program has enabled professionals to meet their overseas counterparts on a personal basis to share their expertise in such areas as real estate, energy, finance, industrial, technology, education, medicine, agriculture and the building sciences.

Realtors, lawyers, financial professionals and people who offer ancillary support services to these professionals are encouraged to apply to join this delegation.

For information about joining the U.S. Economic Development and Real Estate Investment Delegation to the Middle East, contact Sherry Shaver, Ambassador Programs, 800-669-7882, x 411 or by e-mail: sherry@ambassadors.com.

Oakland volunteer instructor trained to teach CCAM program

OAKLAND — Alan Crandall of Union Bank of California in Oakland has completed his training to become an instructor of the California Association of Community Managers' (CACM) Certified Community Association Manager (CCAM) program.

Crandall completed a program that enables him to teach the CCAM certification program to community association managers throughout the state of California. The CCAM certification program helps assure consumers of community association managers' capabilities and expertise.

CACM is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to providing self-regulation to the community association management industry by adhering to the standards of practice and a code of professional ethics. For more information on CACM and its CCAM program, please call 800-363-9771.

Houseman leaves Oakland Association of Realtors

Rex A. Houseman, the Oakland Association of Realtors' executive officer since 1997, no longer is with the OAR, according to a letter from the board of directors. No word has been released on the OAR's plans, if any exist, to fill the position.

The Oakland Association of Realtors assists Realtors in providing and distributing information needed by a consumer in the real estate transaction.

Prudential California appoints new president

Prudential California Realty recently announced the promotion of Edmond "Ed" Krafchow from Executive Vice President to President of the \$4.2 billion firm. Krafchow's promotion comes on the heels of a record year in growth, sales and ex-

pansion, including the announcement this May between Prudential California Realty and Angelyne Pointe Enterprises.

Katherine Grubb  
Pointe Re

Katherine Grubb, real estate specialist, 35 years, now is associated with Angelyne Pointe Realty. Address: 4379 Piedmont Rd. Call 510-655-1513.

To be considered for inclusion, send "Professionals on the Go" to Real Estate Editor, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., 94619. Fax submissions to 510-339-4065. E-mail preferred: Write [tinyler@hills.com](mailto:tinyler@hills.com). Please include a photo for use as a mug shot.

## Contractors, priest, psychic fail to uncover source of home's anger

Dear Don. I hope that you will be able to help my situation, which has been ongoing for two years. My home is an 8-year-old, 1,000 square foot single family unattached stucco-on-slab home in Fremont. For some unknown reason, my home snaps, pops and bangs. It also makes settling noises, yet there are no visible cracks. I am not the only one to have heard all this; my friends have heard them also. So far I have had the following people to my home about the situation: Two Pest Control companies, one contractor, one contractor/solids engineer, one priest who blessed the house and a psychic for a reading about the house. Can you help? JH

Dear JH. Your description conjures in my mind a vision of a one-story house sitting where once oak trees used to be. The Ohlone Indians moved about the Bay from the flatlands for half the year to the hillsides the other half, gathering acorns and oak flowers as their primary source of food. It was common for an In-

## Firm Foundation



By Don Pearman

Foundations dug in shallow soil can act up. Especially when the water table changes...

dian family to consume 1,000 pounds of acorns a year. The Ohlone apparently did this for 10,000 years before California was settled by Europeans, and a lot of their harvesting was done in what is now Fremont.

Then came the missionaries who were busy establishing their chain of missions one day's donkey ride apart all up and down California. Think of Mission San Jose and the good Franciscan fathers growing

grains and grapes and fruit with the help of the Ohlone.

Agricultural types came next, then people who wanted to make the area a residential one. Just imagine what happened when Warm Springs, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Niles and Centerville joined in the fifties to become the largest (geographically measured) city in California — Fremont, named after an explorer who inspired the revolt that resulted in the Bear Flag Republic and later became Governor in 1847.

Fremont, with miles and miles of houses where once there had been open spaces. You might be wondering at this point: "What does this have to do with my house?"

Well, my vision is of your foundation being dug in shallow soil. This shallow foundation lies in this old agricultural unconsolidated soil, which has a water table close to the surface. The changing water table causes the movement of your foundation and the noises you hear are

caused by the foundation adjusting to the movement of the soil.

All kinds of problems could stem from the foundation. It could be transmitting ground moisture, meaning that the rock or sand or plastic barrier that was installed before the foundation was poured is defective. This could also create noisy occurrences.

One symptom to look for is in the rooms that have vinyl floor covering, such as the kitchen or bathroom; a bulge or that tell-tale X-shape across the floor can mean that the water transmission rate is too high and causing calcium deposits and cracks in the floor.

The deposits of calcium are left when the water evaporates, and the vinyl can't do anything but bulge because of the calcium beneath it.

Recently, I looked at houses that had been built where there had once been an orchard of fruit trees. The foundations of the houses had not been installed correctly, and very

soon after the houses were built, many of the foundations started separating and upheaving.

This not only caused a lot of noise, but it also caused entire walls to misalign. A new concern is that these old orchards and Indian gathering grounds and agricultural land have a lot of sulfates and chlorides left in the soil, and if these salts are not removed when the foundations are poured, salt attacks can happen. Salt corrodes the concrete, and over time it can cause major damages to a slab foundation.

It is possible that my vision is all wrong and that you live on the site of the old Essanay movie studios in Niles where Charlie Chaplin, Bronco Billy Anderson and Ben Turpin made their movies before they moved to Hollywood.

Or...

The noises you hear are caused by the ghostly hoofs of the horses in the western movies that were filmed in Niles Canyon before 1900. Perhaps you are just hearing time ranchers spilling graves because of the piping centers and freeways in the 77 square miles of our farmland.

You have consulted many in your letter, you didn't what the experts said, so I will give you a little more insight into the extent of the problem — reports from your experts in the report from the psychos certain that we can get to of your problem.

Don Pearman is a northern California contractor and author of "Termite Report: How to avoid home from pests, rot and quakes." Address questions to Hoover Ave., Oakland, Calif. or E-mail [dpearman@earthlink.net](mailto:dpearman@earthlink.net). Web site: [dpearman.com](http://dpearman.com)



## 1749 Sonoma, Berkeley Open Sun. 2-4

Great New Listing on a fabulous tree-lined North Berkeley street within easy access to Solano Ave., Monterey shops, North Branch Library. This 3 bedroom, 1+ bathroom English Tudor home features an over-sized living room with stenciled beamed ceilings, bay window and fireplace, large formal dining room, newly remodeled kitchen and breakfast room, and nice secluded yard. A large attic and basement provide additional spaces.

Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12.....\$535,000

## 1626 Kains, Berkeley Open Sun. 2-4

Just Listed! Sunny duplex. Two bedrooms each. Laundry facility and garage, lovely yard. Vacant, move-in condition. Convenient location. Warren Lei 524-9888 x14.....\$248,500



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**\$275,000**

## 517 Haddon Road, China Hill

Beauty & Charm invite you to explore this vintage home.

- \* 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, sunroom & small office.
- \* Fabulous, well designed cherrywood eat-in kitchen.
- \* 2 car garage, 2 storage areas and nice gardens.
- \* Living room with fireplace and formal dining room with built-ins
- \* Located on lovely tree-lined street in popular, friendly neighborhood
- \* Near Lake Merritt, S.F. transportation, cinemas and shopping.

Adrienne Nash, CRS, GRI:

510-763-4060-home & VM

Prudential  
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Left to Right, Cynthia, Listing & Marketing Specialist.

Ellie Blue, Attorney, Broker, Buyer Specialist & Technology Coordinator.

Martha Golden, Transaction Coordinator, and

Terri Bota, Realtor, Buyer Specialist and Ball of Fire.

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## NEW LISTING • OPEN SUN • AUGUST 22



**567 KENWYN ROAD, OAKLAND**

Old-world charm with remodeled kitchen! This bright and spacious home has 3 bedrooms, 2+ baths, and a wonderful room/studio with a roof-top deck to enjoy the views! The room and hardwood floors add to the charm.

Offered at \$319,000

**Vicki Woodhead**  
Senior Sales Consultant  
339-6460 x 334

PACIFIC UNION

Relax for a good cause

# Special Olympics sports challenge under way

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Grab your stress and kiss it goodbye — at least for a day. If you like relaxation, sports and/or fine dining, you're in for a treat.

This Friday, August 20, marks the 17th Annual Special Olympics/Realtors and affiliates of Alameda County Sports Challenge — a day of fun under the sun for special athletes and the public alike.

You're invited to participate in a golf event, an "un-event" and an honest-to-goodness gourmet grill. Don't worry if you don't have a golf game — planners say the green is open to all levels.

The day's activities will culminate with Alameda County Special Olympic athletes taking it to the net in a tennis clinic.

Following the competition and clinic, gather on the scenic grounds of the Harbor Bay Club for an outdoor gourmet barbecue, live music, auctions and raffles.

According to Susan Hulse, the Special Olympics regional development director for the East Bay, no one should be disappointed.

"The spirit of the day is to connect the events participants with our Special Olympians using sports and recreation as the vehicle," Hulse said.

All proceeds will benefit the East Bay Special Olympics. Organizers say that with increased sponsorship, this year's event could be the best yet, with an estimated \$20,000 on tap for Special Olympics programs.

## What to expect

■ The golf event will tee off at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex. Registration is at 10 a.m. with start times scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$115 per golfer. Feel free to play in a foursome, and have your company sponsor it!

■ The un-event is designed for you to unstress and unwind. At \$50, you are promised your money's worth at the Harbor Bay Club. Prepare to unwind in style from 2 to 5 p.m.

■ By now you'll have golfed and relaxed your way to an appetite. Enjoy a gourmet grill prepared by Two Chefs Catering, also at the Harbor Bay Club. Hors d'oeuvres are served at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5:30.

The gourmet grill is free with other events, but if you attend the dinner only, you'll be asked for \$30. Save room for entertainment, awards, auction, raffle and prizes.

A formerly advertised public tennis event has been canceled, according to Susan Hulse.

Special Olympics and the Realtors and affiliates of Alameda County are hosting the 17th annual Sports Challenge in honor of Bruce G. Sargent, who until his death was an ardent supporter of Special Olympians.

To register, make checks payable or fax credit card payment to Special Olympics Sports Challenge, 7700 Edgewater Dr., Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94621. Phone 553-9833 ext. 21. Fax 553-0432.

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# It's not too late to make most of Roth IRA

December 31, 1998, marked the end of the rush to convert traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs and take advantage of a tax break that allowed investors to pay their resulting tax liability over four years.

But if you did not make the deadline to take advantage of this one-time tax incentive, it is not too late to think about converting. That one-time tax incentive is now gone, but there are strategies you can use to minimize your immediate tax liability upon conversion.

But before discussing these strategies, let us review some of the differences between the two types of IRAs.

■ The Roth IRA allows you to invest up to \$2,000 annually (\$4,000 if married) but does not allow you to deduct your contribution from your annual tax return. However, your accumulated earnings can be withdrawn tax free as long as you hold the account for at least five years and are at least age 59 1/2, disabled or take up to \$10,000 to buy a first home.

■ With a traditional IRA, you can also invest up to \$2,000 (\$4,000 if married) but your contribution is de-

## Money Matters



By Leila Gough  
There'll be a penalty for missing the deadline, but you can still take advantage of a good idea.

ducted from your annual tax return. So you do not pay taxes now but you will pay them when you begin withdrawing the money in retirement.

■ Also, with a traditional IRA you must begin making withdrawals at 70 1/2. A Roth IRA has no mandatory age requirement to begin making withdrawals.

If you and your financial consultant agree that converting to a Roth IRA makes sense in your situation, you may want to consider ways to minimize your tax bill even though last year's tax incentive to convert

to a Roth has passed.

It is still possible to spread your payments over years simply by doing partial conversions yourself each year. One big advantage of spreading the amounts you convert over more than one year is to keep yourself in the same tax bracket. The amount you convert will be reported as part of your gross income in the year of the conversion. This may move you to a higher tax bracket, so be sure that the amount you are converting will not bump you into a higher bracket.

## Think about this

■ If you can afford to pay the income taxes from your current income and savings — without dipping into your IRA — you will receive greater overall retirement savings. That is because your IRA has the potential to accumulate faster when all of your assets have the opportunity to grow tax free.

■ If you are likely to drop to a lower tax bracket in retirement, you may find the traditional IRA more beneficial because it will allow you

to pay taxes later when your bracket is lower.

■ If you will not really need the money in your retirement, you may want to consider converting. With a Roth IRA, you do not have to start withdrawing money at age 70 1/2. Your Roth can be left to your heirs, income tax free.

■ If you are thinking about converting, you should plan to leave the money in the Roth for a least five years because earlier withdrawals are treated as taxable income. And do not forget — just because you decide to start a Roth IRA, you still can keep a portion of your retirement savings in your traditional IRA. That way, you can enjoy the tax benefits of both.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851 and by e-mail at leila.gough@agedwards.com.

# Families can benefit from 'in-law' pads for elders

By Karol V. Menzie and Ron Nodine

THE BALTIMORE SUN

A lot of our friends and acquaintances are dealing with a particular housing problem: aging parents who don't want to, or shouldn't, live alone.

One solution that's proving a major trend in home remodeling is the "in-law" apartment.

There's been a huge growth in the number of options available to seniors these days — "adult" communities, assisted-living communities, and adult day care included. But there sometimes are excellent reasons for creating a multigenerational home.

Children get to know their grandparents, who probably remember a different world from that any young-

ster is growing up in today, and it gives adults a chance to interact with their parents as peers. If the seniors need a bit of assistance, maybe with mobility, the family is there to help. Or if the family needs a bit of help, watching the kids, for instance, the seniors are there.

In-law apartments or living quarters are being added to new homes as well as existing ones. The space usually includes a private bedroom, bathroom and a small living space. The kitchen is shared by the siblings and the parents.

If you're building a new house it is relatively easy to add the space.

With an existing house, sometimes you have to be more creative. Ron has worked with clients who are dealing with all types of situations.

## The first thing to consider is access.

However, other things need to be considered as well. Building codes generally require bedrooms to have an "egress" window. That means the opening must allow a person inside to get out in the event of a fire or to allow entry to firefighters. Sometimes that's not possible in a basement.

The people who wanted to put the apartment in the basement also wanted to add a small kitchen there. But most areas zoned for in-law-family housing will not allow any kitchen equipment in more than one place, because it would allow the homeowner to rent the space as separate living quarters.

Some jurisdictions will allow another kitchen if a family member is living in the space.

If stairs are an issue, you have several options to avoid them. Ramps are the most common form of handicap access. To create a legal ramp (compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act), it cannot rise more than 1 inch per foot of length. That means that if the base of the ramp is 40 inches lower than the door, you need a 40-foot ramp. The clear width must be 36 inches and landings must be 60 inches wide. Check the codes

before you build. In addition to ramps, you can consider wheelchair lifts, stair climbers and residential elevators.

Ron has seen a number of people looking for in-law space consider the garage.

Of course, the best way to accommodate in-law space is to build an addition. That allows you to build whatever you want (within code restrictions, of course). But that is most likely the costliest option.

As always when planning a project, educate yourself as much as you can. You can never avoid surprises, however simple the project. But research can help you prepare for most eventualities.

Send tips or experiences about working on houses to Home Work, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland CA. 94619.

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# 'Yield-spread premiums' misunderstood, under fire

No. 74 in a series.

## Mortgage Madness



By Karen Senzig

"A broker is not to receive a \$5,000 rebate from a lender for simply taking an application..."

higher rate. The problem arises when the rebate is not disclosed.

### Disclosure counts

For example, on a \$300,000 loan a broker may claim he is giving the client a great deal and only charging one-half point — \$1500 — in loan origination fees for a specific rate. But say he fails to disclose that the

lender will be paying a side payment of \$2,500 in the form of a yield spread premium. He also fails to disclose that the interest rate is .375 percent higher because of the lender funded rebate.

What frustrates borrowers across the nation is that some mortgage brokers have tried to hide the fees on the settlement statement by using confusing abbreviations like y.s.p. — p.o.c. (yield spread premium — paid outside of closing).

They are furious when they realize that the .375 percent in interest rate, as in the above example, translates into almost \$77 per month over the life of the loan. Cases like this have led to costly courtroom fights.

### HUD on the spot

Last year, Congress ordered the Department of Housing and Urban Development to come up with a definitive "statement of policy" re-

garding the loan fees controversy that consumers, courts, lenders and mortgage brokers could look for guidance.

The 27-page statement of policy determined that the yield spread premium, rebates offered by the lender to the mortgage broker, were not illegal. But there are some basic points of understanding that the feds will be looking for.

■ All rebates must be disclosed to the borrower in writing.

■ The fees cannot be a referral fee for just steering business to a specific lender. Back in the early 1990s, several of our wholesale lenders "rewarded" brokers by offering as much as a quarter-point rebate (a point is one percent of the loan amount) for each loan package when the broker would send at least three, regardless of loan program, at a time.

The broker would receive the "bonus" when the third (or last, if

there were more) loan funded. This practice violates anti-kickback rules and no longer will be tolerated.

The HUD determined that the yield spread premium is valid when it is for compensation for goods, facilities or services "actually performed" or furnished by the broker. The size of the compensation must be "reasonably related" to the value of the goods, facilities or services performed.

What they are saying here is that a broker is not to receive a \$5,000 rebate from a lender for simply taking an application and ordering a credit report.

Similarly, HUD says that it will scrutinize "total compensation" involved in a transaction to determine in the back fees are so far out of line as to constitute an illegal kickback.

If a broker charges \$1,500 for services on a \$100,000 and receives an

other \$5000 on the back, then the broker did was taken.

It may be well open to legal action and refinancing.

■ A reputable broker from the beginning than he is functioning as your agent indicated to getting a loan has no needs. Real Estate financing at about rate, but a loan with as long as you own the

■ Demand early disclosure broker of all transaction direct and indirect and in.

Most reputable brokers will "good faith estimate" of the time of application.

They are required.

SEE YIELDS, Page B2

## Rising rates keep borrowers on edge

By Steve Brown  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS — Rowena Yates couldn't take it anymore.

In the last few weeks she's listened to news reports about interest rates going up not something you want to hear when you are trying to refinance your home.

"I called my mortgage broker yesterday in a panic," Yates said. "Every day, you hear interest rates are going up, and you don't know if they are going to go back down.

"I went ahead and locked in yesterday at 7 percent," she said. "And I just barely got that rate."

With home mortgage rates swelling to their highest level in more than 18 months, home buyers and refinancees are scrambling to avoid getting caught in an interest rate crunch.

Home mortgage costs stayed below 6 percent for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan for months, lulling borrowers into a sense of security. But in recent weeks, renewed worries about inflation and hints of higher interest rates from the Federal Reserve have caused home loan rates

to rise to 7.41 percent.

Since early in the year, average home loan interest rates have risen by half a percentage point. On a \$100,000 home loan, that adds about \$35 to the monthly payment, or \$12,000 over the life of a 30-year loan.

Economists warn borrowers not to expect an interest rate retreat any time soon.

"Going forward, the risk is greater that mortgage rates will go up than that they will go down," said Frank Nothaft with the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (Freddie Mac). "And if rates go down, it is unlikely they will go down soon."

"In the meantime, they could go up a little further," he said.

That's what worries Jim Bernard. He's been house hunting for his first home. And every day that he shops, mortgage costs inch upward.

That's made Bernard put his housing search in high gear.

"The longer I wait, the more risk I have of getting locked into a situation of higher interest rates that I can't afford," he said. "I want to close

on a house as soon as possible."

Mortgage brokers say their customers are torn between hurrying to lock in current rates before they go higher or sweating out the market in hopes that rates will fall.

"A half-point uptick in interest rates isn't going to kill the housing market," said Gary Akright with Dominion Mortgage Corp. "But consumers have every reason to be concerned."

"My advice is if the rates are good for you now, go for it and lock it in," Akright said. "Otherwise, it will drive you crazy trying to pick the right time to lock in your mortgage costs."

Chuck Mears is caught in just that situation. But he has to sell the current family home before he can buy a new one and lock in the mortgage rate.

"I'm keeping a close eye on the interest rates," Mears said. "I'm concerned that we will see a spike in the rates."

"If I could lock in the cost right now, I would," he said. "I'm looking at a jumbo loan, and each quarter-percentage-point increase in mortgage costs can have a big impact."

"Higher mortgage rates will at some point weaken demand," he said.

Higher mortgage costs are already affecting the country's hot housing markets, statistics show.

Last month's decline in nationwide existing-home sales was blamed on the rise in loan rates.

Realtor Antonio Mattaranz with Avangard Real Estate said the rate increase has come at a bad time for the moderate-income home buyers his firm works with.

"Some of the programs for first-time buyers are out of money, so the higher interest rates on top of that have hurt," Mattaranz said. "At the same time, housing costs have really gone up, which makes getting into a first home more expensive."

So far, though, the National Association of Home Builders hasn't reduced its forecast for this year's housing starts.

"We are not forecasting a real interest rate upswing beyond this point," said David Seiders, the group's top economist. "But obviously we can be wrong."

"Higher mortgage rates will at some point weaken demand," he said.

JULY 1999

### SALESPERSON OF THE MONTH



#### EVELYN WALKER

For the second month in a row, Evelyn Walker had something to celebrate. After being honored for top production in June, she was named the top producer in the Oakland-Piedmont office of Coldwell Banker for the month of July.

Evelyn has been a licensed Realtor® since 1984, working for Mason McDuffie before joining Coldwell Banker in 1991. She has worked diligently in the interests of her real estate clients and enjoys the enthusiastic and loyal support of friends, family and customers.

Evelyn is married to Oakland attorney Greg Walker and they have two children: Ryan, 21, a senior at UC Santa Cruz and Michael, 18, a student at Devereux California in Santa Barbara. Evelyn and Greg believe in donating extra time to their professions, and Evelyn volunteers at the Oakland Association of Realtors and is currently serving as the organization's Vice President. Call Evelyn at 339-4778 for your real estate needs.



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## New Real Estate Program can reduce fees and commissions by 50%

BAY AREA — www.HomesLink.com a real estate company based in Alameda CA has developed a revolutionary concept in real estate sales called Open Listings which is guaranteed to save home sellers 50% while meeting all California Department of Real Estate rules and standards. The concept is so revolutionary that it has the larger franchise based companies up in arms and scrambling for effective ways to combat it. This program even out-discounts Costco, the king of discounts. For example: Costco's discount on the sale of a home priced from \$200,000 TO \$224,999 is \$1,775 while

HomesLink will save the homeowner from \$6,000 TO \$6,749.97. On a home priced between \$300,000 and \$349,999, Costco's savings is \$2,800 and at HomesLink the savings grows to \$9,000 - \$10,499.97. The savings continue to go up from there.

The program is deceptively simple. Sellers work along side their realtor in a partnership based program. The program is a fee for services rendered program rather than a flat 6% commission as is charged by conventional real estate companies. By using a fee for services based program, smart sellers in today's market are

enjoying sales prices in many cases over asking price in surprisingly quick order. This simple, easy to understand program has saved hundreds of home-sellers thousands of dollars in unnecessary real estate commissions, while allowing them additional dollars for their next purchase or for their retirement plans.

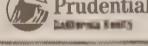
The Open Listing program has received rave reviews from scores of happy and satisfied clients throughout the east bay. For further information in your area call: 1-800-676-0467 ext. 931 Or log on at www.homes-link.com

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# Orchard

FROM PAGE B1

a portion of her artwork sale proceeds to Red Oak's non-profit organization, the "Red Oak Opportunity Foundation" (ROOF). ROOF provides funding assistance to dozens of local charities which do not receive significant funding from other sources.

Creating paintings that manage to be realistic from afar and abstract

close up, Gill adds an unusual and fresh approach to the long tradition of landscape painting.

"Magical moments defined by contrasts of light and dark spark strong emotions within me," she says.

Gill's art career began in 1976 when she entered California College of Arts and Crafts following eight years of teaching French. After graduating from CCAC in 1980 with a BFA in painting, Gill traveled in Europe for four months with her husband, fellow painter Bill Grieco.

In 1984 she began her "Cactus Se-

ries" of oils and watercolors of their Oakland garden. Her current "Orchard Series," based on their Yorkville orchard, was begun in 1995.

In addition to teaching at the Albany Adult School and the Martinez Senior Center (under the Auspices of the Martinez Adult School), Gill divides her time between studios in Berkeley and Yorkville.

She has participated in many shows in California and has won several awards including a purchase award by the San Francisco Arts Commission. Her work is in private collections throughout the United States.

To view or purchase these paintings, visit the Red Oak Gallery Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gill will be exhibiting her watercolors at the Red Oak Gallery at 1891 Solano Avenue in Berkeley from August 23 through October 22.

A public artist's reception is scheduled for Friday, August 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. The newly opened Bistro Viola has generously offered to donate a sampling of their wonderful hors d'oeuvres during the reception. For more information call 510-527-3387.



'SUCCULENTS ON STAGE' (above) and 'One for You and One for Me' (below) form part of watercolorist Sonia Gill's 'Orchard Series' on display at the Red Oak Gallery.

SONIA GILL



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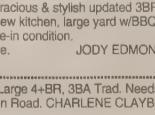
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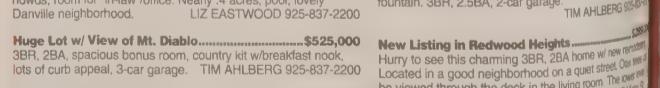


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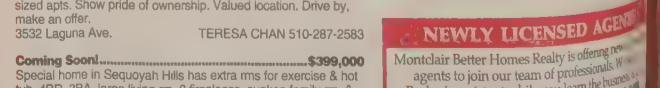
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ODIE the cat surveys his world from atop Realtor Gayle Tantau's computer. A home office helps both deal with work pressures.

## Not all agents purring over hot seller's market

Contrary to popular beliefs, this is not the greatest time for realty agents. How can this be such a brisk real estate market? I can certainly see why the lay person might think all real estate agents are making oodles of money. About everything you read in regard to real estate talks about the market and sellers making great bids on overbids in multiple offer situations. It only makes sense that agents are profiting as well. Right? Just about all my friends have told me, "You must be doing well in this market." I have a pat answer for everyone now: "Thank you for doing well as a listing agent, but there are a lot of agents who aren't making much money." I was curious to see if other agents also asked about how well they were doing. I started a little survey and found that every agent I spoke with said they were asked constantly getting pretty sick of it.

Keep in mind real estate is sales. Any sales business is competitive and real estate is fiercely competitive for agents. A general rule of thumb is that 20 percent of the

**Curb Appeal**  
  
**By Gayle Tantau**  
 "...Twenty percent of the agents sell 80 percent of the property. What are the rest of them doing?"

agents sell 80 percent of the property. What are the rest of them doing? Obviously working very hard for business but not being especially successful.

Today's market is a seller's market, wherein there are more buyers than inventory. That makes it particularly difficult for the buyer's agent. On many properties today there are multiple offers — up to 15 offers is not unusual.

Just imagine if you were an agent making an offer for your buyer. Your chances of making any money are one in 15. Not great odds if you are

responsible for bringing home the bacon.

I know several agents who have written six or seven offers for the same buyer. The energy and tenacity required is phenomenal.

Most agents really earn their commissions and then some. Writing offers is just one of the many chores for agents. Especially in today's fast market, agents are always on the go. They are previewing and showing properties; meeting with house in-

spectors; writing and presenting offers; preparing and giving listing presentations; marketing and writing ads; communicating with clients and business associates; researching property on the Internet and so forth.

I hope people are aware that agents don't just greet people at Sunday open houses and then take big checks to the bank. If that were the case, I imagine everyone would be in real estate.

This business does involve a lot

of stress, and each agent must learn how to cope with all the trials and tribulations.

Over the past year I have discovered the joys and benefits of the home office. My home office offers me a quiet workspace where I can focus on my daily goals and objectives. Eddie, my kitty, sits atop my monitor and watches me work. Eddie helps me stay calm, cool and collected.

Real estate certainly is not a get-rich-quick scheme for agents. A lot

of hard work is involved if the business is to lead to success. In today's market, if realty agents were working on a salary basis instead of on commission they really would be hauling money to the bank.

**Gayle Tantau** is a top-producing Realtor and marketing specialist in the Claremont/Piedmont office. Call her at 510-845-6021 or E-mail her at gayletantau@msn.com.



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**459 MOUNTAIN AVE., PIEDMONT - 3+BD/3+BA .. \$865,000**  
 Charming English with SF Bay views, updated kitchen, den, playroom, au pair, beautiful patio. Sally Morrison

**MONTCLAIR.....\$1,240,000**  
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**MONTCLAIR**  
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**CLAREMONT HILLS.....\$1,225,000**  
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**891 PORTAL, CROCKER HIGHLANDS - 3BD/2BA .. \$400,000**  
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**2541 STOCKBRIDGE, MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/3BA .. \$399,000**  
 Big reduction, unbeatable value! Spacious contemporary in prime location, Bay views, library, atrium. Teri Carlisle

**4225 GLEN AVE., PIEDMONT AVE. - 3BD/2.5BA .. \$385,000**  
 New listing! Rare find! Sophisticated home on cul-de-sac, new kitchen & baths, family room, enchanting garden. Joan Dark

**1500 HAMPEL ST., GLENVIEW - 3BD/1BA .. \$349,000**  
 New listing! Charming bungalow w/sept. artist studio & bath, formal DR, eat-in kitchen, large yard. Jeffrey Himmel

**370 EUCLID AVE., ADAMS POINT - 5BD/2BA .. \$339,000**  
 New listing! Spacious 1915 Traditional w/large formal rooms, updated kitchen, large lot, permit for nursing home. Kathy Flynn

**567 KINWYN RD., HADDEN HILL - 3BD/2+BA .. \$319,000**  
 New listing! Traditional w/old world charm & remodeled kitchen, formal DR, studio w/roof-top deck. Vicki Woodhead

**2507 POTOMAC ST., LINCOLN HTS. - 3BD/1.5BA .. \$295,000**  
 New listing! Wonderful home w/super curb appeal, fireplace in LR, hardwood floors, great workshop. Francis Heath

**4481 MATTIS CT., OAKLAND HILLS - 3BD/2BA .. \$279,000**  
 New listing! Architect-designed brown shingle w/one-level living, family room, patio, 2 car garage. Wendy Gardner

**197 SAMARIA, OAKLAND HILLS - 2BD/2+BA .. \$269,500**  
 New listing! End unit townhouse w/partial Bay views, serene outlook, 2 master suites w/deck access. Michelle Miller

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### ~ By Appointment ~

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 Wonderful 4BD/2BA Mediterranean w/SF view, remodeled kitchen, level yard. Near Solano shops. Joanna Gould

**OAKLAND.....\$379,000**  
 New listing! Refurbished grand Victorian w/ original detailing, 4BD/2+BA, formal DR, large lot. Thomas Wurst

**ROSE GARDEN CONDOMINIUM.....\$209,000**  
 New listing! Sunny top floor unit w/ updated kitchen, 2BR, 1-BA Close to Grand Lake & Piedmont Ave. Jeffrey Himmel

**MONTCLAIR.....\$200,000**  
 New listing! Contractor's special. Fire damaged property w/3BD/2.5BA, loft, Bay & canyon views. Teri Carlisle

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# our handy techniques for your home shop

By Popular Mechanics

Even the sign of a good home owner is his ability to improvise solutions and develop various tips or techniques for making a better. Here are four techniques that will be helpful when working in your shop:

You can turn a bench-type jigsaw into a power sander by using a hanger bolt into one end of a sanding block and mounting it to the lower chuck of the saw. This quick attachment consists of a piece of soft wood measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch by  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inches by 3-inches with wood screw threads of the hanger bolt screwed into the center end grain. Bore a hole in the wood so that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch by 2-inch bolt won't split the block. Use rubber cement, glue or adhesive paper to one side and paper to the other. Or use adhesives.

Using the protruding machine threads of the hanger bolt into the lower chuck of the saw. Blocks of various shapes can be made to specific workpieces. Turning a saw will move the sanding block up and down to smooth edges of a workpiece held on the table.

You can prevent hammer dents, often called Owl's Eyes, by using soft wood by making a protective shield from one-sixth-inch-thick plastic laminate. A spoon-shaped shield so it has a long by  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide handle and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-diameter "bowl" end. Bore a one-eighth-inch hole in the center of this round of the spoon.

To shield, start the nail and place the shield over the nail. Hold the shield flat to the surface of the wood with fingers out of the way of the nail. Drive the nail in until it is flush with the surface of the laminate. Then remove the shield and the projecting nailhead is flush or below the surface with the wood.

To make one wide board by gluing two narrow ones, the edges must be perfectly dressed lumber rarely has accurate enough for joining. Using a portable circular saw can make the edges fit perfectly.

Up both boards with their slightly butted together to the pair of sawhorses. Clamp a straightedge as a guide so the nail falls exactly on the joint between the two boards. Make the cut. Edges still do not match perfectly and adjust the boards in their and make a second or third close the gap. The result will be straight and true mating that will produce a virtually perfect joint.

Mounting a piano-type hinge on the edge of a piece of plywood is tricky because the drill bit for mounting screw holes can easily be ejected by a glue joint or a knot. Solve this problem by using a one-eighth-inch-thick pine cement strip to the edge of the wood. Punch the center marks the holes through the strip, support the drill bit and keep tight. Remove the guide strip before installing the hinge. This technique works for installing hinges on delicate surfaces where a knot may mar the finish.

San Jose Mercury News

Q. Does home remodeling to accommodate an elderly invalid spouse cause reassessment and changes to my home value basis? I have owned the home since 1966. I am retired and cannot afford drastic changes in the real estate tax base.

A. Call your county tax assessor to determine if there is an exemption for alterations made to accommodate elderly or disabled persons. If there is, guidelines for exempted work and an application process is likely available there.

— Mike Sterling, Sterling Inspection Services

A. Unless the modifications are extensive, say adding an exterior elevator for two-story buildings or adding more square footage, there is little likelihood that such changes will trigger a reassessment. In most cases, modifications for the elderly or disabled include entrance and exit ramps, special bathroom fixtures, and lowered sinks with wheelchair access. They don't normally change the interior square footage. It's square footage increases that normally trigger reassessment.

— Grace Morioka, Commencements Management

## Pine trees messy

Q. My mother has two large pine trees on a mobile home site. The trees leave her gutters full of needles. The mobile home park says she's responsible for the trees because they are on her site. She did not plant them and only moved in a few months ago. A friend in another mobile home park seems up-to-date on information and says the park is responsible.

A. Assuming the land is owned by the park and your mother rents her space, the park is responsible for the trees' maintenance and their safety. Ah, but here's the rub: If the trees shed without creating a safety hazard, cleaning gutters is your mother's responsibility.

— Paul Joseph Joyner, Sommers-Ethan Properties

## Termite terror!

Q. What good is a termite inspection if after a week of moving into a home, we find termite activity? We purchased a 30-year-old home in the Blossom Hill-Snell Area in November of last year. When we moved in we removed a carpet and found evidence of active termites. The termite droppings were under an old carpet, so we figured maybe the inspector didn't look under the carpet, so we paid to exterminate the termites there and to replace damaged baseboards.

Since then, however, we've found more evidence of termites throughout the house. Some of them are eating through the bedroom walls and wallpaper. Isn't this what the termite inspection should have discovered and disclosed to us? Do we have a case against the previous owners or the termite inspection company? We are going to have to tent the house and pay for it, and repair holes in the bedroom walls.

A. Contact the termite company and tell them what you've found. If the inspector missed visible evidence of termites the company must terminate the termites -- even if it means tenting the home and paying the repair bills. You can also complain to California's Structural Pest Control Board, 1422 Howe Ave., Suite 3, Sacramento 95825-3280; (213) 897-7838; (415) 557-9114; or (916) 263-2533.

— Jack Tereza, Brooktree Realty Inc.

A. Most pest control reports come with disclaimers limiting the company's liability to conditions in visible areas. Termites often leave visible evidence of their presence. It is possible that the conditions you describe could not be found by an inspector, but you mentioned tenting and it sounds like you have another opinion. Have the original company return to reinspect the property.

## ON YOUR SIDE

# Fixups for elderly invalids could be tax exempt

and if you haven't already done so, get that second opinion. Your original inspections should also include a warranty period.

Cindy L. Simon, Coldwell Banker

A. Always immediately call the original pest control inspector back to the property to review any problems. The longer you wait the less chance you have for positive results. The termite companies often work out a solution for you within the warranty period. Enlist the aid of any real estate agents involved, because they represent referrals for the pest control company. Otherwise, your contract dictates the seller's responsibility, if any.

— Pat Kapowich, Realty World-West Valley

## Why the water stains?

Q. We bought a house in April 1998, but only recently observed water stains in a couple of places. A general contractor said it could be an improper moisture barrier, because he couldn't see any cracks in the stucco. A roofer inspected said the roof isn't

leaking. The contractor said the water damage could have happened earlier based on the dampness. The house had been painted so the inspector could not have seen the stains. The seller didn't disclose the stains. This house is 11 years old, so the builders 10-year warranty has expired. My understanding is the seller is supposed to give a one-year warranty on the house. Is it the seller's responsibility to fix this water damage? My agent asked me to write a letter to seller. Wouldn't that be the agent's responsibility?

A. You are better qualified to write the letter, but before you do get professional advice to pinpoint the source of the water stains. If the home was newly painted and the stains were observed after the paint was applied and the drywall was moist or water was dripping from the area, you probably have a water leak inside the home. If the drywall was not moist, however, you may simply have a stain that is "bleeding" through the paint because the surface was not properly sealed before it was painted. Water leaks can come from the roof, water pipes or

condensation near or around a vent If, as you say, the leak existed at the time of the sale, you should take this matter up with the previous owner.

The 10-year period you mentioned is not part of a warranty but a legal statutory period during which time a homeowner may proceed with legal action against a developer for a latent (not readily observable) defect. Paint defects are considered patent defects, those more obvious. The statutory period for patent defects is only four years from the date of purchase from the developer. In a resale, warranties aren't provided unless the sales agreement says so.

— Grace Morioka, Commencements Management

## Water stains revisited

Q. I've taken your advice and I've had a professional contractor look at the water stains. Based on the dampness, he thinks it likely occurred before I purchased the property. When I write a letter to the seller, what do I mention? That the

seller is responsible for the water damage because it's hasn't been a year since I bought the home? That the seller likely knew of the water damage but didn't disclose it? I also have an estimate from the contractor and just want to generate a letter to the seller in case the damage gets worse. My real estate agent says he's not getting involved.

A. The warranty from the seller to you is in your purchase agreement and it likely expired when you closed escrow. If there is an additional warranty it's in your home purchase documents. Explain to the brokers and seller that it appears the seller did not accurately fill out the transfer disclosure statement and discloses the leak defect. Your agent should be assisting you. If not, ask the office manager or broker to assist you.

Send copies of your demand letter, any professional inspections, estimates or evaluations to your agent and the agent's broker, the seller, and the seller's agent and office broker. Review your sales contract for the proper legal procedures, arbitration, mediation or litigation.



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**RICHMOND**

Immaculate Home, Good Extra Spaces ..... 10

This 2/1 Features Big DR & Kitch. FP, Gar...

**SAN LEANDRO**

Opportunity Knocks! ..... 10

Space Galore in this 2/1. Not a Drive By!

LOTS—LAND—COMMERCIAL—RENTAL

6 Identical El Cerrito Units w/ Bay View! 10

All 2/1 Units with Carports, Storage Spaces,...

North Berkeley Hills View Lot ..... 10

Moderate Upslope Lot, Great Opp & Si...

Mixed Use-Offices & Apartment ..... 10

1/1 Apt Up, 2 Offices, Waiting & Bank...

Large Live/Work Commercial ..... 10

Open Floorplan, Hi Ceilings, 2/2 & Commercial 10

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## Talks

ON PAGE B1

but the negotiations bog down. A problem could be the other. One home buyer felt that his transaction was failing apart, despite agent's diligent efforts.

So he requested a meeting with the seller and the seller's agent. The meeting was a success. The buyer seller noted out their differences and finalized all the loose ends in action.

The buyer's agent summarized the details in writing and the buyer seller signed the agreement. The seller's agent didn't show up for the meeting, but the deal went forward without a problem.

Direct negotiations have a better chance of being successful if both parties are in favor of meeting. Get the other party's agreement to meet you before you start discussing alternative issues. Pick a neutral place for the meeting, perhaps at a real estate agent's office. A neutral

## Yields

ON PAGE B6

the broker submits you to will and you a good faith estimate, before they even underwrite a loan. Discuss the fees with your broker and understand the services that are paying for. You will also provide a "Mortgage Broker Fee Disclosure" (MBFD) which will spell out the "degree of relationship" between you and the broker and "the broker's compensation."

Thanks for reading Hills Newspapers

## Americans put extra homestead space to use

From wire reports

The number of members in the American family has grown, the square footage of their homes. In the last 15 years, the average size of homes in the United States has increased by almost 20 percent. What are Americans doing with extra space? Certified Residential Specialist Toni Sherman, 1999 President of the Council of Residential Specialists, identifies some of the popular uses of extra space that make your home more family and attractive to buyers.

Rooms

Rooms are very popular among homeowners. They are functional for families with small children and a good investment. While

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tral location can help the sellers to distance themselves emotionally from their home which tends to help the negotiation process.

If you do deal directly with a seller, make sure to put any verbal agreements or disclosures about the property in writing as soon as possible. Recently, buyers and sellers agreed verbally on the sale of an Oakland property.

Before the terms of the agreement were put in writing, an offer from another set of buyers materialized. The second offer was for a higher price and the sellers accepted it. Verbal agreements to sell real estate aren't binding, so the sellers in our example were entitled to accept the offer even though they had a verbal agreement with the first buyers.

**Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Buying and Selling a Home in California," and "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," both from Chronicle Books. Order copies from Chronicle books: (800) 722-6657.**

The law does not require for the broker to supply this form, but in the mortgage industry which is self-policing, the MBFD is strongly recommended because it takes the mystery out of the broker's compensation.

Consider it another mystery resolved in the world of mortgage madness.

**Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511, fax: 510-339-3814, and e-mail at KSenzig@aol.com. Contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.**

## Thanks for reading Hills Newspapers

## Title

FROM PAGE B2

policy and the buyer will pay for the lender's policy. But in every case, the question of who pays closing costs is a matter of agreement between the buyer and seller. Usually this agreement is based on the customary practice in your county.

**Q. Why are separate owner's and lender's title insurance policies issued?**

**A.** Both you and your lender will want the security offered by title insurance. Your home is an important purchase, and you will want to be certain your home is yours, all yours. Title insurance companies insure your rights and interests in order to protect you against claims.

Your lender is looking to insure the enforceability of their lien on your property and marketability.

What is meant by "marketability"? Well, we in California have long been importers of mortgage money. Lo-

cal lenders will "originate" a loan here, and often, sell it to an out-of-state investor. This investor, who may never see the property, needs to know that he has a valid and enforceable lien. Title insurance is the way of making certain. Without a current title policy, the loan is essentially unmarketable.

**Q. What does my title dollar pay for?**

**A.** Title insurers, unlike property or casualty insurance companies, operate under the theory of "risk elimination."

Risk elimination can only be accomplished after an intensive period of risk identification.

Title companies spend a high percentage of their operating revenue each year collecting, storing, maintaining and analyzing official records for information that affects title to real property.

The issuance of a title insurance policy is highly labor-intensive. It is based upon the maintenance of a title "plant" or library of title records, in many cases dating back over a hundred years.

Each day, recorded documents affecting real property are posted to these plants so that when a title search on a particular parcel is requested, the information is already organized for rapid and accurate retrieval.

Trained title experts are able, with the aid of their extensive title plants, to identify the rights others may have in your property, such as recorded liens, legal actions, disputed interests, rights of way or other encumbrances on your title. Before closing your transaction, you can seek to "clear" those encumbrances which you do not wish to assume.

The goal of title companies is to conduct such a thorough search and evaluation of public records that no claims will ever arise. Of course, this is impossible — we live in an imperfect world, where human error and changing legal interpretations make 100 percent risk elimination impossible.

When claims do arise, title insurance companies have professional claims personnel to make sure that your property rights are protected pursuant to the terms of your policy.

When you pay for your title in-

surance policy, you are paying for a team of professionals who have worked together to deliver you a title insurance policy which represents protection for your ownership of real property.

**Q. To whom can I look for straight answers on title, closing and closing costs?**

**A.** Title or escrow company personnel are available to review and explain your title policy and your closing statement.

Should you still have further questions or need legal or tax advice, your title or escrow officer can help by referring you to the proper source for your answer. Remember, the title or escrow officer is not a legal counsel and cannot give you legal advice.

**The Title Consumer** is published by the California Land Title Association. Member companies of the California Land Title Association are dedicated to facilitating the transfer of real property throughout California and increasing the public's awareness of the value and purpose of title insurance.

The old building will be "adaptively reused" as an assisted living facility, and new single family and duplex housing will be built on the rest of the site.

**Mark A. Wilson** is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-237-9383. Visit him at [www.topbroker.com/wilson](http://www.topbroker.com/wilson).

  
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Real Estate Sales Provided By

  
**Prudential California Realty**  
3575 San Pablo Dam Road  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

**205 PACIFIC AVE.** Two bedroom, 1 bath Woodstock home, new carpeting, new paint. \$125,000

**MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE BUILDING GRACES DOWNTOWN ALAMEDA W/OLD & NEW WORLD CHARM!** Balconies and Spanish tile, a shaded court, fountain. **PENDING**. Formerly a successful restaurant with full kitchen facilities/lot of potential! Approx. 5,900 sq. ft. CALL FOR INFORMATION

**UPSCALE RETAIL PROPERTY LOCATED IN ALAMEDA'S HISTORIC PARK STREET DISTRICT.** Owner/contractor has upgraded this building to the max. Eight parking spaces. Approx. 6,069 sq. ft. CALL FOR INFORMATION

**OAKLAND - 9 UNITS.** \$495,000  
5 BUILDINGS: 2 Story 4-plex  
DUPLEX & 3 HOUSES

other trendy specialty rooms such as media rooms or cigar rooms may seem popular, they probably won't add to the marketability of a home. The family room should be the fun-oriented room of the house. If fun to your family means pinball machines, home theaters, or jukeboxes, the family room is the perfect place.

## Larger kitchens

A large kitchen is a luxury to many families. Have a spare room next to the kitchen? Sherman suggests you turn the room into a sit-down eating area. The condition of the kitchen can make or break a deal," said Sherman. "The kitchen has become the center of many American homes and an eat-in kitchen allows the family to spend time together for less formal meals."

## Computer rooms

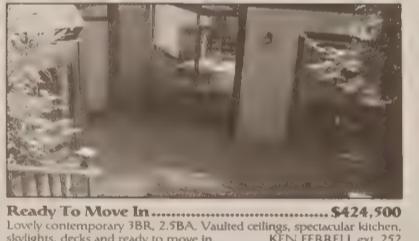
Ask any realtor what the most popular feature in new homes is today and they will probably tell you a computer room. These days the computer is a tool for the whole family. Parents bring extra work home and children use it for schoolwork.

## Extra bathroom

An extra bathroom can ease tension between family members as well as add value to a home. "Additional bathrooms definitely add to the sale price," Sherman said. "As most parents know, children grow older and their time in the bathroom increases. An extra bathroom can be a lifesaver for larger families."



**Near Davies Tennis Stadium** ..... \$425,000  
Refurbished 3BR, 3BA with family room and office/den, level lot. Huge 2 car garage. Best buy on the market. KEN FERRELL ext. 252



**Ready To Move In** ..... \$424,500  
Lovely contemporary 3BR, 2.5BA. Vaulted ceilings, spectacular kitchen, skylights, decks and ready to move in. KEN FERRELL ext. 252



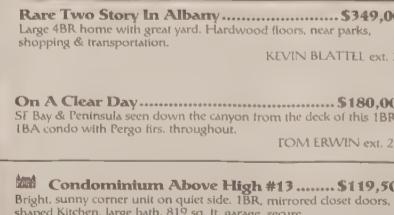
**Townhouse With Bay View!** ..... \$349,500  
Carefree living in this 3-BR, 2.5BA townhouse with tennis & pool. Open Sunday 2:430pm. MARY HANNA ext. 253



**Rare Two Story In Albany** ..... \$349,000  
Large 4BR home with great yard. Hardwood floors, near parks, shopping & transportation. KEVIN BLATTNER ext. 237



**Walk To The Village!** ..... \$299,000  
Charming 2BR home. Living rm. W/ith vaulted ceiling and fireplace. Hardwood floors. Oversized lot and small basement. KEN FERRELL ext. 252



**On A Clear Day** ..... \$180,000  
SF Bay & Peninsula seen down the canyon from the deck of this 1BR, 1BA condo with Pergo floors throughout. TOM ERWIN ext. 230



**Condominium Above High #13** ..... \$119,500  
Bright, sunny corner unit on quiet side. 1BR, mirrored closet doors, u-shaped Kitchen, large bath. 819 sq. ft. garage, secure. HALL CASTLE ext. 220

## A VIRTUAL TOUR SAVES YOUR CARPETS.

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## WEEKLY HOME SALES

Compiled by TitleTech

MADA

035 Cerro Vs \$206,000  
036 Galway By \$455,000  
037 Haight Av \$220,000  
038 Kara Rd \$379,000  
039 Kevington Pl \$230,000  
040 Maitland Dr \$239,000  
041 Otis Dr \$352,000  
042 Sterling Av \$289,000  
043 Versailles Av \$315,000

TELEY

044 Bth St \$108,000  
045 Allston Wy \$265,000  
046 Blake St \$190,000  
047 Channing Wy \$321,000  
048 Chestnut St \$253,000  
049 Colusa Av \$384,500  
050 Cornell Av \$224,000  
051 Cowper St \$140,000  
052 Euclid Av \$382,000  
053 Evelyn Av \$280,000  
054 Hillcrest Rd \$790,000  
055 Hopkins St \$330,000  
056 Marin Av \$325,000  
057 Mendocino Av \$540,000  
058 Nelson St \$465,000  
059 Ordway St \$464,500  
060 Oregon St \$195,000  
061 Peralta Av \$400,000  
062 Roosevelt Av \$240,000  
063 San Ramon Av \$541,000  
064 Solano Av \$230,000  
065 The Spiral \$665,000

On the average			
TOTAL SALES:	9	LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$ 206,000
Address & Realty		HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$ 455,000
035 Cerro Vs		MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$ 239,000
036 Galway By		AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$ 298,333

On the average			
TOTAL SALES:	23	LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$ 108,000
Address & Realty		HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$ 790,000
044 Bth St		MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$ 280,000
045 Allston Wy		AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$ 345,783

1165 Virginia St \$220,000

EL CERRITO			
Address & Realty		TOTAL SALES:	3
046 Hwy 12		LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$ 225,000
047 Hwy 12		HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$ 366,000
048 Hwy 12		MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$ 247,500
049 Hwy 12		AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$ 279,500

OAKLAND

OAKLAND			
Address & Realty		TOTAL SALES:	41
049 Hwy 12		LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$ 80,000
050 Hwy 12		HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$ 1,789,000
051 Hwy 12		MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$ 300,000
052 Hwy 12		AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$ 369,915

1010 56th St \$175,000

5335 Broadway Tr #103 \$95,000

5335 Broadway Tr #202 \$215,000

6158 Bullard Dr \$370,000

5851 Chabot Ct \$425,000

5857 Chabot Ct \$443,000

6363 Christie Av #1706 \$355,000

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 225,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 366,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 247,500  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 279,500

## GARLAND

TOTAL SALES: 41  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 80,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 1,789,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 300,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 369,915

## KICHMUND

TOTAL SALES: 17

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 100,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 1,304,500  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 165,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 269,765

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 11  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 155,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 410,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 200,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 226,818

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 153,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 267,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 218,500  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 216,375

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 100,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 1,304,500  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 165,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 269,765

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 11  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 155,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 410,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 200,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 226,818

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 153,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 267,000  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 218,500  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 216,375

## SAN LORENZO

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 100,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$ 1,304,500  
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 165,000  
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 269,765

304 Troy Ct \$260,000

## SAN LEANDRO

1579 152st Av \$187,000  
1633 Bancroft Av \$207,000  
1257 Chapel Av \$225,000  
845 Dolores Av \$279,000  
817 Douglas Dr \$200,000  
557 Joaquin Av \$175,000  
15050 Milford St \$222,500  
512 Mitchell Av \$255,000  
1420 Vsgrand Dr \$410,000  
523 Warden Av \$155,000  
533 Warden Av \$179,500

## SAN LORENZO

15963 Via Cordoba \$153,000  
920 Via Enrico \$267,000  
17307 Via Frances \$227,000  
680 Via Manzanas \$218,500

This list was compiled for publication in the Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes. All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233.

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS

## Food stays its cool, crispy best in a level refrigerator

Popular Mechanics Magazine

We heard that it's important to make sure a refrigerator is adjusted so that it is level. I always did that this was necessary so we would close automatically.

While it's true that the level adjustment of the refrigerator has nothing to do with the self-closing action doors, a refrigerator runs most tightly when it is level. Also, some refrigerators have a condensation drain which may spill its contents if the refrigerator is not level. Refrigerators have screw-type

adjustable leveling legs under each corner. Other refrigerators have rollers at the corners. The two front rollers are adjustable.

The rollers are located behind the base grill, and they are adjusted with a socket wrench or a screwdriver. Turn the adjustment screw in the roller's center clockwise to raise the cabinet or counter clockwise to lower it. Place a level on top of the refrigerator. Check it for level from side to side, and adjust it as needed. Next, check for level from front to back. If the refrigerator doors do not swing shut by themselves with the appliance level from front to back, you might need to adjust the cabi-

net slightly higher in the front.

## Fasteners have user unhinged

I am planning several projects that involve drilling and fastening to stone and concrete. Frankly, I'm a little overwhelmed when it comes to the variety of carbide bits, anchors, fasteners and other considerations that need to be sorted through. Is there a guide or a good source for concise information in this area?

A. Fastening to stone, concrete, block, brick, and drywall can be tricky, but the Rawl 47M is an industrial-quality handbook that can help you do the job right.

It's 135 pages of the most thorough information we have seen on this subject. Of course, the Rawlping company is pitching its products here, but at least it does a good job. Each of the company's fasteners is illustrated, with clear drawings that show how the fastener is installed. Also listed is the fastener's length and the diameter of the drill bit needed to install it.

There's other information here, on

corrosion and load limits for in-

stance, much of it industrial in nature. But if you pay close attention, you'll see how this applies to fastening around the house.

Rawl anchors and fasteners are sold at hardware stores, home centers and industrial supply houses. To get a handbook, write to: Rawl Inquiry Handling Center, PO Box 8116 Trenton, NJ 08650-8116.

## Faucet squeals a nuisance

Q. We have a faucet that squeals

when it is turned past a critical point. What causes the squeal and what can I do to prevent it?

A. A squealing water faucet usually is the result of a worn washer. When the stem is backed out (someone turns on the water) and the clearance between the frayed washer and the valve seat reaches a critical distance, the washer will vibrate and squeak like the reed in a wind instrument. As the valve is opened more, the space becomes greater and the reed effect — and noise — cease. To prevent this annoying squeal, simply replace the washer.

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE  
OPEN HOMES

## OAKLAND

Address &amp; Realty Size Hours Price

6028 M. L. King Jr. Way 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$159,500

Kathryn Hill (510) 849-1950 #242 Thomass Properties

3165 Monterey Blvd. 3 Bdrm. 2-5 \$395,000

Susanna Yamamoto (510) 339-4700, Colwell Banker

2938 Mircom 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$185,000

Kris Phillips (510) 436-4100, Wells &amp; Bennett

7173 Northgate Rd 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$219,000

Doe Knowland, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

8914 Ardmore 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$400,000

Kathleen Callahan, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

2507 Potomac St. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$295,000

Francois Heath, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

215 Regulus Ct. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$338,500

Sally Sanda, (510) 331-2274, Better Homes

1926 Rosecrust Dr. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$349,000

Patricia Bennett, (510) 482-9000, Better Homes

197 Samira 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$269,500

Michelle Miller, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

6652 Samra Dr 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$429,000

Martha Shin (510) 287-9806, Better Homes

Luis Friedman, (510) 845-0211, Prudential CA Realty

373 4th St. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$307,900

Sherilla Sims, (510) 287-9586, Better Homes

2541 Stockbridge 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$389,000

Gladys Team (510) 748-5300, Homes-Link

4938 Holman St. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$449,000

Cynthia Burks (510) 845-0211, Prudential CA Realty

11280 Valley View Dr. 2 Bdrm. 2-5 \$649,000

Adrienne Boche, (510) 339-4700, Colwell Banker

11280 Valley View Dr. 3 Bdrm. 2-5 \$649,000

Adrienne Boche (510) 339-4700, Colwell Banker

3142 Sylvan 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$229,500

Don Duran, (510) 482-2256, Wells &amp; Bennett

8801 Thermal 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$199,000

Fay Bishop, (510) 526-0900, REMAX East Bay Hills

4730 Tompkins Ave. 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$269,000

Gene Bonomi (510) 339-8900, Prudential CA Realty

565 Trestle Glen 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$469,000

Clyburn, (510) 339-8400, Better Homes

1721 Trestle Glen 5 Bdrm. 2-4 \$550,000

Kathleen Crandall (510) 845-0200, Prudential CA Realty

2245 Tunnel Rd. 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$749,000

Estate Economics (510) 528-8264/82-0200

Prudential CA Realty

19 Villanova Lane 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$575,000

Doris Banks (510) 530-4086, Better Homes

4021 Whitemore Ave. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$239,000

A. D. Nassau, (510) 869-5395, Better Homes

29 Windward Hill 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$535,000

Rita Harrington, (510) 482-0900, Prudential CA Realty

## OAKLAND

Address &amp; Realty Size Hours Price

5952 Zinn Drive 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$425,000

Carol Cohen, (510) 339-8900, Prudential CA Realty

51 Mirs Loma 4 Bdrm. 1-4 \$835,000

Alice, (510) 527-9800, Prudential CA Realty

ORINDA

Address &amp; Realty Size Hours Price

51 Mirs Loma 4 Bdrm. 1-4 \$835,000

Alice, (510) 527-9800, Prudential CA Realty

PIEDMONT

Address &amp; Realty Size Hours Price

425 Glen Ave. 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$385,000

Joan Dark, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

1645 Harvard Rd. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$410,000

Wendy Callahan, (510) 337-7000 #237, Wells &amp; Bennett

459 Mountain Ave. 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$855,000

Lisa Morrison, (510) 339-6460, Pacific Union

2038 Oakland Ave. 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$949,000

Les Heyden, (510) 547-4579, Prudential CA Realty

76 Somers Rd. 5 Bdrm. 2-4 \$1,295,000

R. Marshall, (510) 655-6155, Colwell Banker

REEDSBURG

Address &amp; Realty Size Hours Price

5737 Clinton 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$235,000

Carla Cole, (510) 486-1495, Colwell Banker

640 Humboldt 4 Bdrm. 2-4 \$168,000

Vera Flatt, (510) 527-9800, Prudential CA Realty

314 Key Blvd. 2 Bdrm. 2-4 \$170,000

Apaña Nard, (510) 527-9800, Prudential CA Realty

549 Key Blvd. 3 Bdrm. 2-4 \$170,000

## FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



5994 MCBRYDE AVE. (landscape lot) and 5910 Dimm Way (house lot) have lots to offer!

## Wildcat Canyon Park yours for the view

This English Tudor hideaway is set back from a quiet street and has unobstructed views of Wildcat Canyon Park.

The exterior is stucco with exposed wood beams on top and stone and brick on the lower third of the back and side facades; the highly fire-resistant roof is a special California tile. The terraced double lot can be accessed from either Dimm Way or

McBryde Avenue and is planted with California-friendly vegetation, fruit-bearing plum trees, a lemon tree and a wide variety of flowers.

One terrace has been leveled for use in lawn sports; a park bench rests on the hillside where one can quietly view the open spaces of Wildcat Canyon Park. One enters the house from an expanded deck area and into an extended multipurpose

dining hall with a vaulted two-story high ceiling and full height windows facing the Canyon.

The stone fireplace, a designer hand-made light (which opens to triple length), Italian floor tiles, and French doors opening onto the deck add to the uniqueness of the dining area.

Two steps down through a dramatic archway leads one into the

large living room featuring a vaulted ceiling with exposed beams and alternating color specialty wood strips (cedar & beech) for the ceiling treatment.

The built-in floor to ceiling, wall-to-wall bookcase with closed cabinets can house a very large book collection. Extra-large windows opposite draw in ample light and provide fine views of Wildcat Canyon.

The house expansion, designed by Bay Area architect Alan Fleming, also features double-paned windows, wood frame bolts covered with antique San Francisco brass stamps, and additional special touches. The fine wainscot (ochre mix sponged on plaster) was provided by Bay Area architect Maria McVanish.

The kitchen has a high ceiling

with a large-angled skylight, blue-green hand-sponged wall treatment by Maria McVanish, built-in floor to ceiling shelves, a Jenn-Air stove, and cobalt blue tile on the counters and top of the custom-made, free-standing island.

The two downstairs bedrooms have Berber off-white carpet, and are on either side of the bathroom which features custom deep-green tile on the double sink vanity and tub walls, oak trim on upper cabinets with mirrors, and ample storage space above and below the sinks.

The upstairs loft features a recessed master bed alcove designed by Berkeley artist Fu-Tung Chen. A skylight highlights the all wood trim and shelf surround and quiet view of trees from the alcove windows. The recycled small format French

doors can be closed for privacy to the main upstairs bathroom. Floor tile, earth counter, shower and overhead lights, heated towels, Jacuzzi tub (complies with regulations and water)

This special room can create a unique ambience of comfort. Please visit the house this Sunday between 2 and 4 p.m. for information, please call Rhodes at (510) 558-1200.

# Prudential California Realty



## \* Indicates Homes Being Held Open Sunday

### \*Open Sunday!

**Bay View** ..... \$249,000

**4101 Barner Avenue**. New listing. Clean 2BD/1BA Lincoln Hgts. Charmer. Hdwd firs throughout. John Nielsen 510-339-9290

### OAKLAND / PIEDMONT

### Huge Piedmont Contemporary..... \$1,295,000

Huge, lovely 5BD/4.5BA retreat for comfort, privacy. Bay views! Pool! Approx. 5,000 sq. ft.

Rosalie Marshall 510-428-0900

.....

**Sea Captain's House**....\$225,000

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**New Listing!** ..... \$217,500

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### \*Open Sunday..... \$779,000

**6620 Estates Dr.** 3+BD/3+BA new home and price. Bright, spacious living area w/ private suites. Kathleen Crandall 510-339-0200

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### \*High Life

**High Style** ..... \$749,000

**Open Sunday 2-4:30:** Do a Virtual Tour at www.realworldy.com. 4BD/

3.5BA, views, attention to detail.

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**8079 Broadway Terrace** 4+BD/3+BA, stunning custom home w/ beautiful view. Mary Dresser 510-339-9290

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### \*Almost New..... \$539,000

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### \*Open Sunday..... \$390,000

**72 Edgemont Way**, 3BD/2.5BA, bay views, deck family room, open kitchen. Dollie Henson 510-339-9290

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### Perfect 10"..... \$140,000

**Open Sun. 2-4. 10435 Dante Ave.** 2BD/1BA, pride of ownership, homebuyer's dream.

Kim Cleghorn 510-337-8670

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### Lake Merritt Condo..... \$74,000

Studio unit in 8 year old very well-maintained building. Great location, walk to downtown Oakland.

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### \*Enchanting Craftsman

\$275,000

Just Listed! 3BD. Fabulous kitchen.

Much charm, nooks/crannies.

517 Haddon.

Open 8/22, 2-5 p.m.

Adrienne Nash 510-845-0211

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### Berkeley Hills Tudor..... \$545,000

Spacious Tudor 3BD/2BA grand living rm. Formal DR, French doors to deck & garden bay views, updated kitchen, walk to campus, gourmet ghetto shops.

Colette Ford 510-845-0211

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### \*Open Sunday..... \$339,000

**1401 Walnut Street #2C** Elegant 2BD/2BA condo next to Gourmet Ghetto.

Howard Converse 510-339-9290

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### North Berkeley - Split-Level..... \$340,000

Great home, upgrades galore, Oak firs, granite counters, private back-yard.

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### \*Open Sunday 1:30-4:30..... \$283,000

**2137 Browning**. Exceptional bungalow. Sunny country kit. fml. DR, lovely fireplace, new deck, veggie grdn. & fruit trees.

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### BERKELEY NORTH

(510) 849-3711

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### EL CERRITO

(510) 527-9800

.....

### GRAND LAKE

(510) 834-2010

.....

### KENSINGTON

(510) 526-5143

.....

### MONTCLAIR

(510) 339-9290

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### PIEDEMONT

(510) 528-9284

.....

### WILDCAT CANYON

(510) 339-9290

# SPORTS

JV

Thursday, August 19, 1999

Section C

**Softball** Oaks fastpitch team finishes second in Barstow [C2]

**Arts** One woman show explores sexism, racism [C3]

## Blasters capture Dana Cup

Bay Oaks continues trend of American dominance in international soccer

By Mike McGreehan

The Dana Cup is easily one of the biggest youth soccer tournaments in the world. It is certainly the largest soccer tournament in Denmark.

This year, some 10,000 players representing 770 teams came to the city of Hjorring to compete for Dana Cup championships for their age groups.

One of those teams was the Bay Oaks Blasters under-15 girls, which made a triumphant return from Denmark after beating out 40 teams in its age group to win the "Class T" championship at the tournament.

In Hjorring, the Blasters continued the trend of American dominance in girls soccer by shutting out seven opponents to win the championship.

The Bay Oaks team may have taken some inspiration from the American women, who have proven their mettle on the soccer pitch this decade. The U.S.

women's team won the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1991, the Olympic gold medal in 1996 and the Women's World Cup again earlier this summer.

More recently, another group of American women took home soccer gold medals from the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Blasters went one step further by outscoring their opponents 27-0 for a perfect tournament.

"It was pretty exciting," said Bay Oaks coach Steve Hathaway. "They estimated that about 20,000 people (players, parents and coaches) came to this tournament. Hjorring, with about 26,000 people, almost doubled its population."

### Best for last

Of course, both the Bay Oaks and the tournament itself saved the best for last. The Blasters and their Danish opponent, Fortuna, played for the title July 31 in Hjorring's main "football" stadium, a state-of-the-art facility.



DISPLAYING THEIR COLORS, Ashley Ash, Kalyca Seabrook, and Annie Borton, all of Berkeley, rejoice after winning the Dana Cup in Denmark.

STEVE HATHAWAY

"They had dressing rooms — it was very classy. For the girls, it was a big deal," said Hathaway. "When they came into the stadium, they girls got to walk side by side with the other team (in the manner of most top professional matches)."

Fortuna and the Blasters played a scoreless first half. But second-half substitute Tracey Ross made a big difference

in the match after halftime.

Ross scored two goals and assisted on another to lead the Blasters to a 3-0 win and the tournament first-place trophy. Lisa Hathaway added a goal and an assist.

Ross, along with Sara Bott and Shannon Elliot, led a potent Blasters attack throughout the tournament.

But like all successful teams, the Blasters struck the proper balance be-

tween attack and defense.

"Our defense was awesome," said coach Hathaway. "Nobody came close to scoring."

Ali Sambucetti and Kalyca Seabrook (Oakland resident who attends Berkeley High School) shared goalkeeping duties during the tournament. Defender Lia Ru-

See BLASTERS, Page C2



FOUR VETERANS OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL pose with players of the Oakland Oaks girls fastpitch softball team in Barstow. The two women wearing caps played in the All-American Girls Baseball League; they are, center-left, Lavonne "Pepper" Paire-Davis and, center-right, Alice "Lefty" Hohlmayer. The two other women in the photo played in the minor leagues and are not identified. Oakland Oaks players are: front row, l-r, Loredana Croda, Maiti Rodriguez, Zakiyah Williams, Amber Nelson; middle row, Nicole Norris is to the left of the veteran players; back row, l-r, Colleen Profumo, Melissa Parajon, Stephanie Pereira, Liz Spivey, Mikka Vrankovich, Valerie Norton, Danielle McGraw, Nicole Middleton.

## A league of their own

Oaks softball team meets legends of women's sports

By Mike McGreehan

From 1943 to 1954, the All-American Girls Baseball League provided much of the groundwork for women's sports of today.

That league was the brainchild of chewing-gum magnate Philip K. Wrigley, who also happened to own the Chicago Cubs. Many of the major league players were off to war, so Wrigley created the league as a kind of novelty.

But AAGBL wasn't professional wrestling or Roller Derby. Many of the managers were former major league play-

ers. The women who played were top athletes who took the game seriously. The league, once thought to fill a void left by the depleted major leagues during World War II, lasted well beyond the end of the war.

In 1992, a movie called "A League of Their Own" depicted the AAGBL.

Last month, the Oakland Oaks girls fastpitch softball team got to meet four former players from that era at the California Police Activities League Tournament in Barstow.

Two of those women played in the minor leagues. But the other two, Lavonne "Pepper" Paire-Davis and Alice "Lefty"

Hohlmayer, played in the AAGBL. Paire-Davis played for the Racine Belles and Hohlmayer for the Kenosha Comets. Both also had an influence on "A League of Their Own."

Geena Davis' "Dottie" character was patterned after Paire-Davis. Rosie O'Donnell's character was based on Hohlmayer.

Paire-Davis and Hohlmayer, like all other women baseball players of that era, got their starts in softball.

"It was kind of neat (to meet these players) because you got to see who

See WOMENS, Page C2

## Oaks win a grueling World Series

St. Mary's High's Felder and Miyawaki endure on road to win baseball title

By Scott Strain

After overcoming oppressive heat, a tornado, seven doubleheaders, injuries, 25 days on the road and hotel food, the Oakland Oaks finally returned home over the weekend.

They returned as World Series champions.

"This team has been through a lot," manager Alan Silver said. "It held together and achieved what it wanted to do."

The Oaks defeated the Southern California Cannons 5-4 in eight innings Friday afternoon in Midvale, Utah, to win the championship game of the United States Amateur Baseball Association. They had defeated the Cannons 10-6 on Friday in this double-elimination tournament and the repeat victory made them 10-0 overall for the series.

The tournament ended as it should have; in a struggle between the two best teams. After the Cannons lost to the Oaks, they eliminated Kent, Washington 2-1 in nine innings on Friday evening.

That set up the final game the undefeated Oaks would have to have been defeated twice to deny them the title.

It didn't happen, but it was a struggle. Oakland was down 4-2 in the bottom of the eighth and was facing another game immediately afterward if it lost. Coach Steve Webster, according to Silver, gave the Oaks a rousing "we can do it" speech before the last of the eighth and the team proceeded to go out and do it.

Jeremiah Felder led off with a double off the fence in right-center and St. Mary's teammate Anthony Miyawaki chopped a single up the middle that was too shallow to score Felder, who stopped at third. Miyawaki stole second to put runners on second and third.

Duran Ward pushed a bunt past the

pitcher and beat it out for a base hit. The bunt scored Felder to cut the Oaks' deficit to 4-3 and put runners on first and third.

After Chris Uithoven struck out for the first out, Piedmont's Peter Schneider pushed a bunt down the third-base line for a hit that scored Miyawaki to tie the game and Ward went to third. Schneider stole second moments later.

The Cannons elected to walk Skyline High's J.R. Taylor to load the bases, setting up a force at any base. But Bishop O'Dowd's Nate Durham-Hammer foiled that strategy with a clean single up the middle to score Ward with the winning run. Game over, title won.

O'Dowd's Robbie Brethauer pitched a fine game for Oakland, going seven innings and allowing only one hit. He struck out five and walked two.

With no pitching limitations for the championship game, Silver sent Brethauer out to pitch the top of the eighth with the understanding that if he got into any trouble, he would be pulled. Brethauer walked the first batter of the inning and Miyawaki was brought in the stoke second moments later.

But Miyawaki allowed two runs for a 4-2 Southern California lead, necessitating a three-run rally in the bottom half of the inning.

The Cannons had taken a 2-1 lead in the third and held it until the bottom of half the seventh when the Oaks tied the game and sent it into extra innings. Taylor led off with a double. Durham-Hammer flew out to left and Jesse Ingram tied the game with a single to left.

Southern California scored a run in the top of the first to take a 1-0 lead, but the Oaks tied it in the bottom half of the inning.

Schneider and Taylor opened with walks and Durham-Hammer hit a fly ball

See OAKS, Page C2

# Oaks take second in Barstow

St. Mary's Spivey and Vrankovich provide spark

By Mike McGreehan

The key to a championship season, some say, is for a team to win all its home games and at least half of those it plays on the road.

The Oakland Oaks girls fastpitch softball team took the last part of that advice to heart in Barstow last month, going 3-3 to finish second in the 16-under division at the California Police Activities League Tournament.

Oakland, made up of high school players, including two players from St. Mary's High and two about to enter high school, played better than its record might indicate. One of its wins was a blowout and another was also by a comfortable margin. Two of its losses were the result of international tie-breakers.

"We won all the big games to get to the championship," said coach Bill Parajon.

The Oaks lost 8-1 to Barstow in the championship game. Oakland committed an uncharacteristic four errors in the contest.

"We just ran out of juice," said Parajon.

Oakland did manage a few highlights in this contest. Zakiyah Williams went 2-for-3 with a triple. Valerie Norton also went 2-for-3. Danielle McGraw produced her team's only run with an RBI single in three at-bats.

The Oaks opened the tournament with a 6-5 loss to this same Barstow team in an international tie-breaker. Still, the Oaks played very impressively.

Loredana Croda went 2-for-2 and scored two runs. Nicole Norris went 2-for-3 with an RBI and stolen base.

If the Oaks had any frustrations over the opening game, they took them out on their next opponent, Pasadena.

In that game, Norris drove in six runs while pitchers Mikka Vrankovich (St. Mary's) and Melissa Parajon combined on a no-hitter in a 20-0 Oaks victory. A slaughter rule limited this game to four innings.

Vrankovich and Parajon each pitched two innings. Norris went 2-for-3, including a home run, to go along with her six RBI. Williams went 2-for-4 with a home run and drove in two runs.

Next, the Oaks lost 8-5 to Salinas in yet another game decided by an international tie-breaker.

Liz Spivey (St. Mary's) hit a two run home run to tie the score in the final inning, which sent the game to an international tie-breaker. Vrankovich had a solo home run.

Oakland got back on the winning track with a 9-2 win over Covina. Stephanie Pereira threw a three-hitter with two strikeouts. McGraw and Norton provided the offensive thrust.

Norton went 1-for-2 — that one hit being a three-run home run. McGraw finished 3-for-3, including a home run and a double.

The next game, Oakland's fifth of the tournament, was a mixed bag for pitcher Melissa Parajon. Parajon gave up eight walks, but tossed a no-hitter in a 6-4 win over Monterey.

The Oaks scored five of their runs in the first inning. Williams, taking a cue from Rickey Henderson, led off the game with a home run to center field. Maiti Rodriguez and McGraw followed with back-to-back triples. Croda and Nicole Middleton both doubled in the inning.

Valerie Norton finished 1-for-2. Amber Nelson accounted for Oakland's only other run with a solo homer in the sixth inning.

## San Ramon Tournament

Parajon was much sharper in an 8-1 win over Morgan Hill in the semi-final round of this tournament.

Parajon had a perfect game going into the sixth inning before settling for a one-hitter. Parajon ultimately faced 25 batters, striking out 14 of them.

Offensively, Parajon helped her own cause by going 2-for-4 with two RBI. McGraw went 2-for-5 with a double and two RBI. Middleton was 2-for-2 with one RBI. Williams finished 2-for-3 with two stolen bases.

As they did in Barstow, the Oaks went on to finish second in the tournament. Oakland lost 12-0 to host San Ramon in the title game.

"We had no juice left," said coach Parajon, repeating his words to describe the Barstow tournament.

Oaks players attend or will attend six area high schools.

McGraw, Nelson, Norris, Parajon and Williams play at Skyline under Anita Tregle, who also serves as a coach for the Oaks.

Norton attends Bishop O'Dowd. Middleton and Croda will start at O'Dowd in the fall.

Rodriguez is from Holy Names. Colleen Profumo is from Piedmont High. Pereira attends St. Joseph Notre Dame.

Bob Rush also served as a coach for the team.

Officer Terrance West of the Oakland Police Department sponsored the Oaks.

# Womens

FROM PAGE C1

started the league and got women's softball going," said Oaks player Colleen Profumo, who pitches and plays outfield at Piedmont High.

"It was really nice," said Holy Names infielder Maiti Rodriguez. "We got to bring the two age groups together. It was a lot different for them than it is for us now."

How different was it? Today's softball players at least get to play in functional, realistic uniforms. The AAGBL players took the field in skirts. After games, their legs were often masses of welts and brush-burns.

But not all the differences had to do with what happened on the field.

"They told us that they had to go to charm school and slide in skirts," said Skyline pitcher Melissa Parajon. "Women like that went out on a ledge. They told us things like how many games they played and what conditions they were under. I had so much respect for them."

For women baseball players of that era, maybe the biggest physical challenge was the switch from softball to baseball.

"They said it was hard for them," said Loredana Croda, who will attend Bishop O'Dowd in the fall. "(In baseball) you could take a lead before the pitch was thrown. Pitchers would often forget to hold the runner.

It was also hard to adjust to overhand pitching, so some of the underhand pitchers just stopped pitching. It was too hard to go from underhand to overhand and learn all different pitches."

Croda plays pitcher, catcher and third base. In softball, position players have at least some experience throwing overhand. Despite all the progress women have made since Title IX became law 27 years ago, opportunities for women baseball players are few and far between nowadays.

"If they had a major league, I might (consider playing)," said Croda. "I would definitely want to be a pitcher in baseball. It's something about the attention you get. My overhand is about 5 miles per hour faster than my underhand."

Croda, however, is in the minority, as many of her teammates would prefer to stick to softball.

"It would be harder on your arm to throw overhand than underhand," said St. Mary's High pitcher Mikka Vrankovich. "Underhand is a more natural motion. You wouldn't get hurt as much playing softball."

Parajon played tee-ball with the boys before getting into softball. But now she appears to have left base-ball behind.

"From my experiences playing baseball, I prefer softball," said Parajon. "I've gotten used to the size of the softball. The baseball — it's so small."

Rodriguez, who plays shortstop with Holy Names and second base with the Oaks, can't visualize a change, either.

"I don't really see myself as a baseball player. It's a whole different game. I've been playing softball so long, I can't imagine playing baseball."

Added Profumo, "I would probably go with softball because underhand is what I know. I'm comfortable where I'm at now. It would be hard to switch over."

When Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day of 1947, he integrated a game that had long been reserved for white North Americans.

When the Los Angeles Dodgers opened their 1997 season — the 50th anniversary of Robinson's big-league debut — they had the same number of African-Americans in their starting lineup as they did a half-century earlier. Exactly one.

But Robinson's legacy was still alive and well as the Dodgers took the field that day with a multinational lineup. The game had opened up to people from all walks of life.

The AAGBL of the 1940s and '50s might have a similar type of legacy. Girls might not be playing baseball in record numbers now, but women's sports, including softball, continue to gain respect.



A SECTION OF THE Bay Bridge roadway collapsed in Loma Prieta earthquake.

# Bay Area's century of dramatic even

Millennium stories and big, slick books about the 20th century haven't covered many of the events affecting the lives of Bay Area residents.

What major changes — for better or for worse — have occurred in the Bay Area during this century? What individual events were most newsworthy? Bay Area history and everyday life have been shaped by such events as major earthquakes in 1906 and 1989, the building of bridges, freeways and transit systems, industrial development during World War II and suburban growth from the 1960s onward.

We would like readers to help choose the most significant events in the Bay Area in the 20th century. The results will appear in a special section, The Century, Oct. 7 and 8.

Vote for up to 10 events, includ



PATTY HEARST with the Symbionese Libera

ing as many as three that may not be on our line is Aug. 20.



RICHMOND became a shipbuilding center for the military

- Earthquake and fire** destroy much of San Francisco in 1906
- Panama-Pacific International Exposition** in 1915 celebrates the opening of the Panama Canal and San Francisco's reconstruction.
- Standard Oil** opens oil refinery in Richmond, Shell in Martinez.
- Bridges speed traffic** to Solano county: Carquinez Bridge in 1927, Benicia-Martinez Bridge in 1962.
- The Bay Bridge** links the East Bay with San Francisco in 1936, curtailing the Bay's network of ferries.
- Caldecott Tunnel** opens in 1937, encouraging residential construction in Contra Costa County.
- Golden Gate Bridge** opens Marin County to development, 1937.
- Richmond** becomes a major shipbuilding center during World War II, and wartime industries boom throughout the East Bay.
- Japanese-Americans** ordered out of Bay Area to internment camps during World War II.
- Explosion** at naval ammunition base at Port Chicago kills 320 men, 1944.
- United Nations** formed in San Francisco, 1945.
- Professional sports** comes to the West Coast as the San Francisco 49ers begin play in the All-America Football Conference in 1946. The 49ers join the National Football League in 1950, winning five Super Bowls in the 1980s and '90s.
- Giants, A's** bring major league baseball to the Bay Area.
- Berkeley, Livermore** labs become centers of nuclear/defense development.
- Freeway system** connects Contra Costa and Alameda counties to the wider Bay Area, 1950s and '60s.
- Bay Area** gets another professional football team in 1960 as the Oakland Raiders begin play in the American Football League.
- The NBA** comes to the Bay Area in 1962 as the Warriors, with Wilt Chamberlain, move to San Francisco from Philadelphia.
- Hippies** make San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury and Berkeley centers of the counterculture movement in the 1960s and '70s.
- The Summer of Love** in 1967.
- Free Speech Movement** in Berkeley leads to student movements, 1960s.
- Vietnam War** pressures Bay Area a center of the peace movement.
- American Indians** stage a protest in 1969.
- Rolling Stones** concert at the Oakland Coliseum in 1969 ends with the death of a fan.
- Black Panthers** organize attention on the black community movement in the East Bay 1970s.
- Latin and Asian immigrants** bring the influx of new residents to the Depression and World War II forms much of the Bay Area.
- Francis Ford Coppola** and other directors make movie-making center in the 1970s.
- Francisco Mayor** and Supervisor Dan White are shot to death at City Hall in 1978.
- AIDS** takes a heavy toll in the 1980s and '90s.
- Giants, A's** bring major league baseball to the Bay Area.
- Berkeley, Livermore** labs become centers of nuclear/defense development.
- Freeway system** connects Contra Costa and Alameda counties to the wider Bay Area, 1950s and '60s.
- Bay Area** gets another professional football team in 1960 as the Oakland Raiders begin play in the American Football League.
- The NBA** comes to the Bay Area in 1962 as the Warriors, with Wilt Chamberlain, move to San Francisco from Philadelphia.
- Loma Prieta earthquake** collapses Cypress Freeway in 1989. Oakland shuts Bay Bridge, causing widespread damage.
- Oakland hills** fire in 1991, killing more than 3,000 homes and destroying 1,000.

# Blasters

FROM PAGE C1

binoff gave a gritty performance in the final.

"She was injured in that championship game but played her heart out," Steve Hathaway said of Rubenoff.

Fellow defender Jessie Bedbrook was also injured during the tournament. Still, she gave a fine performance with a 2-0 win at Hjorring for the opening of the Dana Cup.

"There was a parade through town as part of the opening ceremonies," said Hathaway. "Forty-eight countries were represented. There were teams from Africa, one from Thailand and from Russia. They came to celebrate the international language of soccer. It was like a mini-Olympics."

## Blasting away

The Blasters opened the tournament with a pair of group-play matches July 27.

First, the Blasters beat Horsens of Denmark 2-0. Later, the Blasters trounced Teie IF of Norway 11-0.

Normally, soccer etiquette calls for teams to not run up scores on an obviously overmatched opponent. The Blasters generally adhere to this unwritten rule, too. But circumstances tied their hands against Teie IF.

"Another team beat them 9-0, so we had to make sure we got the points (goals and goal differential are taken into consideration in the team standings)," said Hathaway.

On July 28, the Blasters completed group play with a 2-0 win over Hornebo SK of Sweden.

With its three wins, 15 goals and 15-0 goal differential, the Blasters

easily advanced to the single-elimination portion of the tournament as the top team in their group.

Second-round opponent Kontu FC of Finland gave the Blasters their toughest match of the tournament July 29 as neither team scored in regulation.

When the game continued scoreless through overtime, the teams had to go to a shootout to decide matters.

The Blasters won by making four of their penalty shots to Kontu FC's three. Holmgren, Ash, Sambucetti and Eliot scored in the shootout for the Blasters. Seabrook saved one of the Kontu FC shots. Another Finnish attempt went over the bar.

With the win, the Blasters advanced to play in the July 30 quarterfinals against Madesjö IF of Sweden. A 7-0 win then advanced Bay Oaks to the semifinals later that day. The Blasters defeated Bantaa Jalkap of Finland 2-0 to qualify for the final.

The Blasters, though, weren't quite finished after beating Fortuna in the final.

Before coming home, the Blasters stopped in Copenhagen for one more friendly. They won that match, too.

"We played another game that was absolutely gorgeous," Hathaway said of the Copenhagen friendly.

In a short span, Bay Oaks had played 10 matches. And counting the one shootout victory, it won all of them.

NOTES: After a stop in London where they didn't play any games), the Blasters returned home Aug. 4. Counting the friendly in Copenhagen, the Blasters played 10 games in 14 days since the tournament ended.

For more information about the Dana Cup, go to its official website at [www.danacup.dk](http://www.danacup.dk).

# Oaks

FROM PAGE C1

that advanced Schneider to third. Ingram hit a grounder to first that scored Schneider with the tying run. The Cannons then scored a run in the top of third for a 2-1 lead that held until the seventh.

Schneider went 2-for-3 in the game and Ingram, from Hogan High in Vallejo, was 2-for-4.

In the 10-6 victory on Thursday against these same caliber Cannons, the Oaks came back from a 4-2 deficit to go up 10-4. Four walks and three errors in the top of the second gave the Cannons a 4-2 lead, but in the bottom half of the inning three Cannon errors led to four Oakland runs and a 6-4 lead.

"That evened things out," Silver said about his team's inning. "Everything settled down after that."

The Oaks broke it open in the sixth when Schneider and Taylor both singled. Durham-Hammer scored both runners with a single for an 8-4 advantage. Two outs later, Marquie Pettis tripled him home for a 9-4 lead. Pettis scored the final run on an error.

Pettis pitched six innings and struck out eight while walking three. Felder pitched the seventh. Schneider went 2-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBI; Taylor was also 2-for-3 with three runs scored. He

had an RBI. Durham-Hammer was 2-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI and Pettis, the winning pitcher, went 1-for-3 with three RBI.

The Oaks had able coaching with the likes of Silver, Webster, Eddie Abram, Sam Taylor and Jerry Wiggins handling a team that had dwindled to 13 players at Series' end.

They started with 18 in Dallas 25 days ago. The team played 10 games in Dallas and all were doubleheaders in a climate that averaged 115 degrees on the playing field. They finished third in a 32-team tournament with an 8-2 record.

After a four-day layover in Dal-

las, they went to the Salt Lake City area where they went undefeated in 10 games that included two straight days of doubleheaders.

They witnessed a deadly tornado. They lost starting second baseman Johnny Tucker to a freak eye injury before Thursday's semifinal game. Pettis had a sore arm and was unable to play in the championship game.

"They overcame all of that," Silver said. "Right now, they are just happy to be home. It will be a couple of weeks before reality sets in and they realize just what they have accomplished."

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"They over

# Arts

## Multimedia Notes

By Bill Mann

### Pete is still Pete

test on Giddings: Readers often ask me for an update on departed KGO weatherman Pete Giddings. It's been eight months since the tiresome, garrulous meteorological lecturer was booted from Channel 7, where he'd been ensconced since the Eisenhower administration (or so it seemed). After coming up empty with other local TV stations, the Giddings has signed on at KOLO-TV in Reno. Giddings, I am told, has long owned a second home up in Tahoe. (This would explain the excessive number of live shots of Pete skiing each winter.)

I had a spy in the audience (actually, a helpful reader) when Giddings recently spoke to the Rotary club up in Incline Village.

The bemused reader, shaking his head as he tells me this, re-

A big chunk of his speech was taken up by Pete complaining about his being let go. He claims it's age discrimination. (The guy columnist interjects: "Giddings' act was old in 1983.")

The reader/spy continues: "Pete's management thought he had it — and he playfully pulled at his neck — and that at 60, he was too old." (If you think you've got an age-discrimination case, why not file one?)

Then, the Rotarian says, "Giddings went on to tell us how much he'd improved the station's ratings since he'd arrived there." That's the old, humble Pete we all know so well, all right. "Pete added that once he'd left, San Francisco TV was left without any Certified Consulting Meteorologists." (CCM — GORE is a hockey-stick manufacturer.)

Like anyone cares.

Giddings has always spent more on throwing his scientific credentials around than anyone this side of KGO Radio's know-it-all eco-reverend Dr. Bill Wattenburg. He told all this to KCBS Radio anchor Mike Pechner, who's back on the air tomorrow morning for a rare vacation/absence from CBS. "That's a lot of baloney," said Pechner, chuckling knowingly.

There are at least two CCM's on TV, one of whom is Leigh Lander, who works at Pete's old station, KGO.

That Giddings ... always with

**MEDIA ROUNDUP:** I don't want to create any false hopes here, but you won't be disappointed in Fox's new fall series, "Action." You may have seen the replayed promos for the comedy, which starts in a month. It's probably the funniest pilot I've seen in years. More on "Action" as we hear its premiere date. Let's say for now that the series rips a page better than any movie TV show ever has and leave it at that.

After having just sat through 33 new fall network series the TV critic's version of clean the Augenstabs — I have one word to say: AAA-

GHH! ... Go A's! OK, I don't

like baseball and avoid listening to it.

But it's hard these days for me to pick up the paper and not know what the East Bay's exciting team has been doing. No

could be happier about the A's than local radio legend

Edwards, now a newserson the A's broadcast outlet, KABL (AM). "The A's are winning, we're making money," smiles energetic Edwards, a DJ in

its Top 40 heyday in the '80s when he later hosted rock-oldies "The Time Machine," on K-

10. Edwards, 57, a nostalgic buff, passes along a funny line from another 'oldie':

"A friend of mine in Alameda says he's so old, he can remember when the Golden Gate Bridge was still a dirt road." Yep,

he's pretty old, alright ... Come on! Plus: It was sadder than usual to pack up the sagging OakTrib the day and see the op-ed column of my former colleague,

anda Payne, whom I personally

hated. The whole column was about

losing tickets to a party

years ago. Yes, the entire column. Even "Modern Maturity" had rejected this one. In

week's thrilling installment,

anda finds a parking space! ...

It's not your imagination: This

TV Guide is the second

director's item" cover photo in

past three months featuring the

television of the World

Federation. Look up the

"panderer" in a dictionary

you just might find TVG pub-

lic "Prince" Rupert Murdoch's

name above it ... Veteran Bay

See MANN, Page C4



DEBORAH EDWARDS as Sarah Bartman in her one-woman show "From Whores to Matriarchs: Black Women Survivors On the Edge," which opens in Berkeley Thursday, Aug. 19.

## Play depicts black women's struggle

Deborah Edwards' solo portrayal of a sexual assault survivor's torment and healing reflects real-life experience

### THEATER

■ **WHO:** Deborah Edwards  
**WHAT:** "From Whores to Matriarchs: Black Women Survivors On the Edge," a one-woman show  
**WHERE:** Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley  
**WHEN:** Thursday, Aug. 19 through Sunday, Aug. 22; shows start at 8 p.m. except Sunday (7 p.m.)  
**COST:** \$20 general admission, \$15 students and seniors  
**CALL:** 510-845-4700

each performance, says Tamera White, the play's publicist.

The performance opens with Sarah Bartman (or "Hottentot Venus"), a black slave, sitting inside a cage as an early 1800s-era human exhibit piece. Bartman was imprisoned and displayed because of the

size of her buttocks.

Other characters that Edwards explores include a Shakedah, a 16-year-old runaway stripper.

Edwards, an artist, activist and broadcast journalist who worked on the East Coast, is a self-described "survivor-woman-warrior-healer."

She holds degrees in both broadcasting and cinematic arts, and is currently writing a book about black women survivors.

"From Whores to Matriarchs" is directed by Rhodessa Jones, a Bay Area performer, writer and instructor. Jones received a BESSIE, a New York Dance and Performance Award, for "Big Butt Girls, Hard-Headed Women."

On Sept. 18, The Community of Mindful Living in Berkeley will showcase this play as a lead-in event to the "Path of Peace: A Day of Mindfulness" at Lake Merritt Park in Oakland.

Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will lead the gathering there.

### EVENTS

#### Jazz Music

Plowshares Coffeehouse, 2398 Bancroft Way, billed as a faith-based performing arts cafe with a social conscience, presents jazz, folk, acoustic, open mike, and poetry jams. On Aug. 20, the Dan Damon trio plays innovative and wild-eyed jazz. Suggested donation is \$5 at the door. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show is at 8 p.m. Call 549-1244 for more information or listings.

#### LHS

Top of the Bay Family Sun-Days Sundays, Aug. 22, at noon to 3 p.m. Welcome to the great LHS outdoors! It's the perfect place to enjoy a family concert relax while the kids are involved in fun outdoor science activities, and admire the best view in the Bay Area. A series of four "Top of the Bay" Family Sundays will feature outdoor musical entertainment and science fun for the entire family. Concert and activities are included with museum admission.

■ Aug. 25 Making Musical Instruments from Found Objects, runs from noon-2 p.m. Making music is fun, with instruments made from found objects and used materials. Fran Holland, musical gizmo craftsman extraordinaire, demonstrates how to create string and percussion instruments from everyday materials.

Lawrence Hall of Science is open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children 7-18, seniors, and students; and \$2 for children 3-6. LHS is located above the UC-Berkeley campus, on Centennial Drive. Parking is 50 cents an hour. LHS is also accessible by AC Transit and the UC-Berkeley Shuttle.

For information, call 612-5132.

#### La Pena Programs

■ Aug. 21 family concert: Juanita & Picante Ensemble. Award-winning singer/composer Juanita Newland-Ulloa & Picante Ensemble, a five-piece contemporary mariachi band. Sing and dance to an evening of Mexican vales, boleros and huapangos including Juanita's own compositions. Led by musical director, Jorge Liceaga. Show is at 8 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.

■ Aug. 22 concert: Cuban Jazz. Tini Terry (bass), Roberto Carrasco (piano) and invited guests on drums and congas. Show is at 8 p.m. Admission is \$8.

■ August 28 Concert: In commemoration of the Chicano Moratorium. Grito Serpentino. A Chicano arts ensemble from San Jose performs a blend of spoken word, music, teatro and performance art. The group uses the arts as a catalyst for social change and for the liberation of Raza throughout Aztlán. Featuring the poetry of Marc Pinate. 8 p.m. \$8.

La Pena is located at 3105 Shattuck Ave. Call 849-2568 for information.

#### Cal Performances

The Asian Youth Orchestra returns to Cal Performances with pianist Jon Nakamatsu as part of the orchestra's 10th anniversary concert tour, Aug. 21 at 8 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall.

The orchestra will perform Bach's "Stokowski Prelude" and "Fugue in D minor"; Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37," with soloist Nakamatsu; and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36."

Tickets range from \$20 to \$42 available through the Cal Performances ticket office at 642-9988.

#### The Claremont Gallery

New exhibit now through Nov. 1999 entitled "Southwest Passages". Featuring: Photos of the Southwest from the 1960's to 1990's by Wesley

## Scared stiff at sea

By Sarah Allen

CORRESPONDENT

From the damp planks of the Berkeley Pier, the water is composed. Mist-moistened faces turn to the waves, small and serene, and eyes spy sailboats bobbing far away. To the landlubber, nothing says afternoon leisure like this.

But Derek Lundy knows better. Where the wind trills playfully in his ears here, he is all too aware of the clamor it causes farther out — oh, say, 1,300 miles out.

On a trip with his wife from Charleston, S.C., to the Virgin Islands, Lundy lost sleep not so much from the wild rocking of his boat but from the noise. "The waves sounded like battering rams when they hit the hull," he writes in the prologue to his book, "Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters" (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$22.95).

### INTERVIEW

■ **WHO:** Derek Lundy  
**WHAT:** Author of "Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters" (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$22.95)

... and waited for something to break."

If the trip convinced the experienced amateur sailor to ditch his boyhood dream to sail around the world, it intensified his interest in those who do. The lawyer-turned-author took his curiosity to the extreme and focused on the most daring, skilled sailors in the world — the 16 competitors in the 1996-97 Vendee Globe, which is the most treacherous, complex sailboat race in the world.

"I felt compelled to find out how the Vendee Globe skippers did it, why they did it," he says. It's a 27,000-mile, nonstop, solo round-the-world

race that takes sailors from 3½-5 months to complete — if they can complete it at all.

Lundy, a Canadian whose book has become a best seller in his native country, felt an initial connection to the race skipper Gerry Roufs, a favored competitor and the first Canadian to enter the Vendee Globe. Lundy followed Roufs' course via Internet updates, until the day Roufs and his boat disappeared forever.

Recently, Lundy slowly walked the length of the Berkeley Pier, his jaw set as he recounted the horror stories of the race from France through the North and South Atlantic and around Antarctica. The gales that have toppled boats with the ease of a child knocking over a vase have abated on their journey to Northern California, and they mischievously ruffle Lundy's seaman-white hair and beard.

"People sail around the world all the time," he says.

See SCARED, Page C4

## Wunder reviews keep us on the edge of hysteria

By Corey Lyons

### Idle Thoughts

By Corey Lyons

ceive a telephone call before Wunder rips his first blockbuster.

Alas, the man can hardly string together a sentence without using a combination of the following words: taut, psychological, stunning and photography.

He spends more time "on the edge" of his seat than an airline passenger sitting next to Marlon Brando.

"Ransom" is the most exciting sit-on-the-edge-of-your-seat thriller of the year, perhaps of the decade." — Wunder on "Ransom." — Wunder on "Forces

You have probably seen his name and quotes splashed prominently across newspaper ads to help promote the latest theatrical releases. As Hollywood tirelessly cranks out its assembly line of generic action flicks, Wunder is leading the way with a bright torch.

The poor soul endorses everything, including "Armageddon" and "One Tough Cop." He's like Marilyn Manson venturing into his first cosmetics store: Everything looks good.

"Ransom" is the most exciting sit-on-the-edge-of-your-seat thriller of the year, perhaps of the decade." — Wunder on "Ransom." — Wunder on "Forces

#### of Nature"

I can only imagine his response after receiving a telephone call from a studio executive promoting, oh, "Mr. Magoo."

Wunder: Hold on a second there, friend. Let me find my notes. Ah! It was wonderful! A 92-minute belly-ache! One of Nielsen's best performances ever! I was sitting on the edge —

Of your seat, Paul. Thanks.

But what really sent Wunder's credibility spiraling like Andy Garcia's thespian career was this: He truly enjoyed "Mimic."

The film, in which Mira Sorvino mimics an actress, was so bad that

See COREY, Page C4

## HOT SHEET!

■ Actress Halle Berry will attend the premiere of "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," an HBO biopic in which she served as co-executive producer and star at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at the Paramount Theater in Oakland. Berry will be honored with a board of directors award.

■ Pro Arts, a community arts gallery in downtown Oakland, will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an exhibit by East Bay young adults. A reception will be held 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26, at Pro Arts, 461 Ninth St., Oakland. Call 510-763-9425.

■ The 17th annual San Francisco Jazz Festival, presented by Infiniti, runs Oct. 20 through Nov. 6 in San Francisco and Oakland. Call 415-398-5655.

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See EVENTS, Page C4



DVORAH (KATE OFFER) and Yitzcock (Len Schaffer) in "A Shirtwaist Tale," a full-length musical that premiered at College Preparatory School Aug. 6. The show runs through Sunday, Aug. 22.

## 'A Shirtwaist Tale' continues at College Preparatory School

"A Shirtwaist Tale," a full-length musical set in New York City's Lower East Side in 1909, continues at College Preparatory School in Oakland at 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20.

The show, produced by Anniversary Productions, will be performed at 8 p.m., Saturday, and 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$15 general, and \$12 for students, seniors and groups.

Directed by Madeline Pabis and composed by Arkadi Serper, "A Shirtwaist Tale" tells the story of two young seamstresses, Sadie and Dvora, as they fight for improved working conditions and higher salaries.

The two young women join forces with a labor organizer for the Women's Trade Union League and a local cafe owner to joust for im-

proved working conditions and higher salaries with an inside contractor.

Playwright Judith Offer spent a year researching the material while crafting the first draft of the play. She visited the Tamiment Labor Library at New York University, and attended the Folksbiene Theater, New York's latest Yiddish playhouse, to help absorb the immigrant experience.

Serper, a Russian immigrant, is a veteran of 15 musicals. "A Shirtwaist Tale" is his first full-length American musical.

The play features a 14-character cast and 20 songs.

Call 415-550-0592 for tickets or information.

## Current pick 'Evening' opens in dusk of life

By Lynn Carey  
STAFF WRITER

THE BOOK CLUB'S new selection, "Evening," by Susan Minot (Vintage, \$12, 264 pages), was recommended by book-sellers and friends alike.

Once we read it, it was easy to see why. Chances are, you won't be able to put it down. It opens with a woman in pain, dying from cancer. She's at home in bed, but in her morphine haze her thoughts are not on her grown children, who are hovering nearby, but a weekend 40 years prior. The place was at a friend's wedding in Maine where she met the man who would become the love of her life.

"Evening" is fun, romantic and tragic, and unrolls slowly, easing from the past to the present in lyrical transitions. There are many things to discuss in this book, we can't wait for your comments.

And here's some good news: You can read the first chapter of "Evening" on our Web site. The fastest way to get to it is [hotoco.com/timeout/books/chapter\\_one](http://hotoco.com/timeout/books/chapter_one).

By the way, "Evening" has just come out in paperback and is indeed available at the stores, though some may not have them unpacked yet. All bookstores that have requested to be warned, have had at least 10 days' notice, so the books should be available. If you can't find it, please call the Book Club at the number below.

In the meantime, read "Evening" and tell us what you think by Sept. 22. Remember to include your name, address and day and evening phone numbers in all correspondence, even in e-mail. If we don't have your phone number, you won't be con-

sidered for the discussion dinner held the following week.

■ Mail comments to: Times Book Club, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

■ E-mail comments to: [book@cttimes.com](mailto:book@cttimes.com).

■ Fax comments to: Times Book Club, 925-943-8362.

■ Next Book Club meeting: Sunday Oct. 3, in TimeOut. Selected comments will be published that day, along with the author interview and discussion-group article. The next book will be announced then, too.

■ A note on Book Club membership: All you have to do is read the book. You can further participate (and endear yourself to us) by sending us your comments on the book. But there are no dues or forms to fill out.

■ Send us your suggestions: Just give a brief synopsis — a couple of sentences — telling us why you like a book, and keep in mind our basic guidelines: The books must be in paperback (to be more affordable); the author must be alive (for an interview); and we're trying to avoid those "readers guides." The book must be an undiscovered treasure. We're not interested in those already on major best-seller lists, or those that have already been made into a movie, or already chosen by Oprah. You'll probably read those on your own. We want to introduce you to books you may otherwise not pick up.

■ Book Club questions? Call 925-943-8112.

sorbing that I was completely able to ignore its sometimes obvious flaws." — Wunder on "One Tough Cop"

And he calls "Instinct," starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Anthony Hopkins, "powerful."

Widely panned from coast to coast, "weak" might be a more appropriate word to describe that picture.

"Breakdown" is a taut, suspenseful thriller that will literally leave you jumping up and down on the edge of your seat for an hour and a half." — Wunder on "Breakdown"

We'll take your word for it, Paul.

Despite a personal invitation from Paul Wunder, Corey Lyons did not attend the premiere of "Lake Placid."

"I found this film so utterly ab-

## Corey

FROM PAGE C3

the alien insect reportedly uttered, "I just can't take it anymore," and killed himself during rehearsals.

Of course, our intrepid critic found lots to enjoy about the picture, in which a giant mutant cockroach begins eating humans in a sewer system beneath New York City.

"A terrifying and scary thriller made with depth, complexity, skilled acting, social comment, dazzling special effects" — Uh, Paul? — "stunning photography, fast-paced editing and brilliant direction" is what Wunder said of "Mimic."

Wow. Five words, Paul: It really wasn't that deep.

"I found this film so utterly ab-

## Events

FROM PAGE C3

and Sharon Collier. Also on permanent display: Old World Prints, a serious collection of antique original etchings, lithographs and engravings from 1700-1900. New print shipment from Europe. Located 2907 Claremont Ave., Berkeley.

For information call 848-9300.

### Local art exhibit

The Gallery at Temescal Cafe announces its newest show: Buildings, Landscapes, Dreamscapes: Oil pastels by Pam Fingado.

Fingado, who has been an artist and teacher for 30 years, creates large images of very quiet streetscapes and individual buildings. She is currently living in El Cerrito, bases her pastel drawings on her own photographs. Her work has been shown in several local exhibits.

Now through Oct. 12, the gallery is located at 4920 Telegraph Ave. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. For information, call 524-1737 or 595-4102.

### Rose Street House of Music

A house concert venue in Berkeley. On Aug. 22, Shelly Doty — the Lilith Fair talent search winner — performs. Starts at 7 p.m. The opening act to be announced. For information on dates, confirmations, location, and information, call 594-4000.

### Theater

Halle Berry, Danny Glover and other local celebrities and community leaders will attend HBO Pictures' premiere of "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 S. Broadway, in Oakland on Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m. The film stars Berry as Dorothy Dandridge, the first black woman to be nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award. Berry also served as the HBO biopic's co-executive producer and was instrumental in bringing the Dandridge story to the screen.

Before the screening, the Oakland-based Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Inc. will honor Berry with a board of directors' Vision Award. Danny Glover will present the award to Berry for her contributions to film and television.

A limited number of tickets for the free screening is available to the general public on a first come/first served basis (two per person) through the Paramount Ticket Office. This film contains adult themes. Box Office Window hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.

### Author signing

Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 1401 London Square, 98 Broadway.

Oakland author and son of Maya Angelou, Guy Jonson, to read from "Standing at the Scratch Line." This novel, his first, met with great acclaim for its memorable character King Tremain, and its breathtaking narrative journey through 30 years of the African-American experience. Follow King from the bayous of Louisiana to the battlefields of war. Then enjoy a reading and a discussion with Oakland's own Jonson, at the neighborhood bookstore. All events are free and open to the public. Call 272-0120 for information.

### Arts festival

The Enduring Arts Festival on Aug. 22 will for the first-time showcase the East Bay's outstanding performing and visual arts organizations on one stage in one afternoon. The cultural sampler is a great introduction to opera, ballet and dance.

Carriage rides and self-guided mansion tours will be available throughout the day. Artists and artisans, porcelain painters, quilters, weavers of fiber and straw, potters, lace makers and watercolor painters will demonstrate their work in period costumes throughout the grounds.

Admission is \$10/\$12 at the gate. DHE members \$8/\$10 at gate, seniors (62+) \$7, junior (6-13) \$5, children 5 and under are free. Gates open at 11:30 a.m., with performances from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Located 2960 Peralta Court off the 10th Ave. exit of Interstate 580. Call 615-5555 for information.

### Oakland musical

Anniversary Productions announces the August premiere of "A Shirtwaist Tale," a full-length musical set in 1909 in New York City's Lower East Side. The show is steeped in the tradition of Klezmer style music and turn-of-the-century American tunes. It tells the story of the Shirtwaistmakers strike of 30,000 mostly young, mostly Yiddish speaking immigrant girls. It is a story of survival as these shirtwaist makers take on the garment industry and fight for shorter hours and better wages. All performances are fully staged and feature a four-piece klezmer band.

"A Shirtwaist Tale" will run through Aug. 22, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. at College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway, Oakland. Tickets are \$15 general; \$12 students, seniors, and groups. For tickets and information call 550-0592.

### Photo exhibit

An exhibition of work by Por-

tuguese photographer Gerard Castello-Lopes will make its West Coast premiere at the UC-Berkeley Art Museum.

On view through Sept. 26, "From People to Paradox: The Photographs of Gerard Castello-Lopes" presents a short survey of Castello-Lopes' career as a photographer, and includes black and white photographs from 1957-1992.

The exhibition will be on view in the BAM/PFA Theater Gallery. Enter at Pacific Film 2611 Durant Ave.

The Theater Gallery, which is free to the public, is open from 8 a.m., Monday-Friday, and 11 a.m., Saturday-Sunday, and closes at the end of the last Pacific F. Archive Screening. For information, call 642-0808.

### Posters American style

One hundred years of poster-making in America is celebrated in "Posters American Style," an exhibition of 86 images by American graphic designers and artists, at the Oakland Museum of California through Aug. 29.

The exhibition includes colorful circus and literary posters of the 1890s, government-sponsored posters from World War I and II, psychedelic rock concert posters of the 1960s, protest images of the 1970s and new designs of the 1990s.

The museum is located at 10th and 10th streets in downtown Oakland, one block from the Lake Merritt BART station and four blocks from Interstate 880.

Museum hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5

p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 seniors and students with identification, free for children 5 and under. The second Sunday of the month.

For information, call 1-888-625-6873.

### Musical Folk Tale

The premiere of a new, musical folk tale for the millennium composed, written and directed by Rindra Eckert for East Bay's Opera Piccola

previews in Oakland on Aug. 26. Eckert, a highly regarded New York-based theater artist, arrived in Oakland for rehearsal of his new piece, "Navigators." The completed work will debut Aug. 26 in an exclusive two-week preview at the Temescal Art Center before opening later in San Francisco.

Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$11 for students and adults 62+, \$6 for children k through fourth grade. There are 7:30 p.m. performances on Aug. 26-28; 4 p.m. performance on Aug. 29; and 7:30 p.m. showings on Sept. 2-4.

Call the Willows Theater Company at 798-1300 for information.

### Starry Plough

Ramona the Pest, Kristin Bat-tersby, play Aug. 20, \$5.

Pete Krebs, Mike Johnson, Patty Spilgiani play Aug. 26, \$5.

Smoke Jumpers, Varsity Drag, Fernando, play Aug. 27, \$5.

Amy Denio, Rube Waddell, play Aug. 28, \$6.

"The Starry Semester" series is a series of traditional Irish music.

For age 21 and over, 9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, unless otherwise noted.

located at 3101 Shattuck Ave. Call 510-841-2302.

### Ashkenaz

The Johnny Neumes

Aug. 20, 9:30 p.m.; \$10.

California Cajun, Aug. 21, 9:30 p.m.; \$10.

Poullard, \$10.

Victor Essies and The

play Aug. 22, 9 p.m.; \$10.

Gator Beat, play Aug. 23, 9 p.m.; \$10.

The dotGals, play Aug. 24, 9 p.m.; \$5.

West African Highlife

Aug. 27, 9:30 p.m.; \$10.

Ashkenaz is at 1117

Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-0000.

### Blakes

Kofy Brown, play Aug. 21, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Worry Birds, play Aug. 22, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Lazy Bones, play Aug. 23, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Groove Junkies, play Aug. 24, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Scapgoat Wax, play Aug. 25, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Tang, play Aug. 26, 9 p.m.; \$5.

Strangewood, play Aug. 27, 9 p.m.; \$5.

For age 18 and older, 9:30 p.m. at 2367

Berkeley. 510-848-0000.

after 20 minutes — and

hall, where I caught

"Crown Affair." Three

and a half hours, I

really don't like escape

that's not



UNCLE EYE' invites you to join the CD release party.

## Ira Levin and Pirate Band CD release party

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of interactive fun for the entire family. Family pizza dinner available.

The event will be held on Aug. 29 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center located at 1414 Walnut St. (between Vine and Rose) in Berkeley. Reservations are needed for dinner. Call 848-0237 extension 131 for information and reservations.

## Berkeley Rep, ACT hosting all-night 'Faustathon'

The University of San Francisco Fine and Performing Arts Department, the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, and the Goethe Institute of San Francisco are sponsoring an all-night

reading of Goethe's "Faust" to celebrate the German writer's 250th birthday and benefit USF's Upward Bound Program.

The Faustathon will start at 7 p.m. on Friday Aug. 27 with musical en-

tertainment by R&B band Dream Forward followed by the reading of Faust at 8 p.m. at the Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2025 Addison St. in Berkeley.

There will also be a special mid-

night concert by mezzo-soprano Joyce Todd, who will perform Franz Schubert settings of songs from Faust and other works by Goethe. The reading will end around noon on Aug. 28.

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The menu features seven to eight entrees featuring fish, fowl, a vegetarian entree or two, and fabulous cuts of meat.

The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 18 years.

The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. Sauces include curry, champagne, and various Thai specials.

The Reef Restaurant is located about one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

This place is a winner and the bill of fare, which changes monthly to take advantage of peak seasonal ingredients, is downright fabulous. The

### Eve's Hunan

5620 College Avenue  
Oakland (510) 601-9888

Eve's Hunan Restaurant's extensive menu provides delights for all tastes. The appetizers (prawns, pot stickers, calamari and the list goes on) are marvelous and prepared to perfection. Savory soups include Chicken Won Ton, Egg Flowers, Velvet Corn and Chicken Soup, Seafood from Tofu, Hot and Sour - yes, there are more to choose from. Not the least of which are the marvelous entrees including Spicy Szechuan Prawns, subtle and delicious Walnut Chicken and tantalizing Scallops with Hot Garlic Sauce.

Bring some friends. Eve's family dinners are a combination of sizzling soup, delectable appetizers and a wide variety of house specialties.

Eve's Hunan Restaurant features luncheon specials, an early bird menu and dinner discounts. Eve's is located one half-block South of the Rockridge BART station on College Avenue.

### Garibaldi's on College

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The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on

Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perfectly done entrees (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns).

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EL CERRITO-BASED Gamelan Sekar Jaya's festival will include a wealth of music and dance works.

## Music and dance of Bali at free festival

The Bay Area's 40-member gamelan orchestra, El Cerrito-based Gamelan Sekar Jaya, will present a free outdoor festival on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alston Way in Berkeley in celebration of the group's 20th year.

For this event, the first concert in a six-week series of events in their 20th anniversary festival, five of Bali's top artists will join the group in a display of music and dance works. Several special guest performers will also appear, representing various Indonesian and other Asian performing traditions. Food and craft vendors will contribute to the festive atmosphere. The free outdoor festival will take place

The festival will include a wealth of music and dance works, performed on several different sets of gamelan, a large percussion ensemble of tuned gongs, bronze or bamboo metallophones, and drums. In addition to traditional works such as topeng (masked dance theater), and pieces from the kebyar repertoire (the explosive and rhythmically complex style of Balinese music and

dance that evolved in the early 20th century), an exciting world premiere will be presented: the instrumental work Talakalam by Michael Tenzer, which combines gamelan and Indian music, and features a special guest appearance by the innovative tabla ensemble Tabla Rasa.

Other guest performers include Pusaka Sunda (a Sudanese gamelan orchestra led by master flutist Burhan Sukarma); Hasanari (dancers of West Javanese jaipongan); and Lavitanica Bismart (a dancer of Javanese Ronggeng Beleantek).

The five artists who will join Gamelan Sekar Jaya at the festival include the finest musicians and dancers from an island famed for its vibrant performing arts traditions. Many are from STSI, Bali's National Academy of the Arts in the capital city of Denpasar. All have joined Gamelan Sekar Jaya for artistic residencies in the past, but this will be the first time ever that they all appear together in the U.S. They are:

■ I Wayan Suweca - widely recognized as Bali's most virtuosic drummer; master of gender wayang music (the accompaniment to the shadow puppet play); composer; Sekar Jaya's

founding music director.

■ I Wayan Rai - composer of avant-garde instrumental works, multi-instrumentalist, scholar.

■ I Gusti Ayu Srinatih - dancer, choreographer; singer, expert in refined female dance styles.

■ I Nyoman Wenten - dancer, musician, director of the World Arts program at Cal Arts Valencia.

■ I Putu Dewa Berata - composer, drum virtuoso, leader of a newly created center of music and dance in south-central Bali.

The free event is just one part of a series of performances and workshops that the group is undertaking in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

Other area events will include a symposium on Balinese performing arts at UC-Berkeley on Sept. 18, and four concerts at the Fort Mason's Cowell Theater in San Francisco on Sept. 24, 25 and 26.

Sekar Jaya will also undertake two concert tours, first to Santa Fe in late July (to appear in the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival) and to Los Angeles in mid-October, where the group will perform at Schoenberg Hall (Oct. 9) and at the World Sacred Music Festival at the Hollywood Bowl (Oct. 10).

Downtown Berkeley will have the blues Aug. 28, but it's a good thing. Center Street, between Oxford and Shattuck, an area already emerging as a cultural arts center will be the site of the fifth annual Free Berkeley Blues Festival that day from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to featuring four outstanding Bay Area blues bands, the Saturday festival will offer a variety of food from neighborhood restaurants, including the popular Mom's Barbecue. Attendees can also sample a variety of hand-crafted micro-brews, such as the unique beers of Pyramid Brewing and Golden Pacific. There will also be the chance to win prizes during the scheduled drawings, including weekend stays at resorts, and meals at fine downtown restaurants.

The line-up will feature blues-jazz singer and recording artist Faye Carol, well known for her eclectic blend of cabaret ballads, straight ahead jazz, and blues. A regular at Bay Area clubs, festivals, and special functions, Carol is the winner of numerous jazz, blues, and cabaret singing awards, and regarded as a unique stylist and entertainer. Carol regularly performs with her daughter Kito Gamble, an inventive jazz pianist, and a Berkeley High School graduate. Their most recording, "The Flow", has been well received, and features jazz great, drummer Billy Higgins. Faye Carol will headline the festival with her "Off the Hook Blues Band." Together they have garnered rave reviews at the Sacramento Blues Festival, Yoshi's, and the Monterey Blues Festival.

Also appearing in the festival is Deep South, a six-piece Gregg Allman tribute band, featuring the classic southern rock instrumentation of dual guitars with the growling Hammond B-3 organ, driven by a powerful rhythm section, TJ Moore and Little Steven. Calvin's four piece band is led by TJ's delta singing and stupendous guitar licks, together with

## Downtown Berkeley

## will rock with the blues



FAYE CAROL headlines the festival with her Off the Hook Blues Band.

the masterful blues harp of Little Steven Calvin.

The Berkeley Blues Festival opens with the Delta Wires, a seven piece band, described in one review as "a tough rocking, socking band... marked by riveting horn riffs."

The event is staged by the 10-year-old Downtown Berkeley Association, which recommends that blues fans enjoy the convenience of riding BART to and from the Festival.

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# Calendar

submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

## Classes

**The Ecology Center's** 1999 Sustainable Living Series continues with Fall & Winter Container Vegetable Gardening on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave. Val Peters demonstrating ways to select and organically prepare planting areas, chose container, organically control pests, and maintain plants nutritionally. Cost is \$15 for nonmembers, \$10 for members. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Pre-registration is strongly advised. Call 548-2220 for additional information.

**Berkeley Community Media** presents classes covering camera techniques, movement, composition of shot, tempo, continuity, editing, sound influence. Screenings will include works of Goodard, Wong Kar Wai, Spike Lee and others. This class is for anyone interested in film, video and the power of the media. Call 848-2288, ext. 400 for additional information.

**Vista Community College** announces its fall travel industry classes beginning Thursday, Aug. 19. Classes train for careers as tour operators, travel agents, cruise line and airline reservationists, tour leaders and others. Call 841-8431 for additional information.

**Program for Adult College Education (PACE)** Fall 1999 is open for enrollment at Vista Community College. Enrollment continues through Saturday, Aug. 21. PACE is a college alternative for adults with job and family responsibilities. The program allows the completion of freshman and sophomore years in one and a half to three years, enabling participants to transfer to a four-year college. Classes are held one evening a week and several Saturdays a term. Call 841-8093 or e-mail [adpocology@aol.com](mailto:adpocology@aol.com) for enrollment information.

**Learn Your Rights When Dealing with the Police**, a free three-hour presentation teaches how to observe police and to help prevent police brutality. Powerwatch is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization, which works to defend the rights of everyone under the law. For additional information, call 548-2288.

**Stories/Collage** and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesdays evenings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Sponsored by Berkeley High School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6630 for additional information.

**Temporary Women's Issues** is forming at the North Berkeley Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free classes offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll. CCC Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 844-6107 for additional information.

**Music and Fitness Classes** open all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, tango, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, etc. pilates-based body conditioning at more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft St., Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

**Swing and Jitterbug**: 7 p.m. swing classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; 9-week dance classes beginning the Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley. Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for classes.

**Children** **Puppet Shows**: Program on physical and mental differences at Hall Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave. Two shows Saturday, Aug. 21, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For children of all ages and their parents. For additional information call 549-1564.

**Water Rats**, Julia Morgan's kid's summer camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

**Health and Community Education**: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; \$370; \$8 - \$10.

**Community** **Berkeley Farmers' Market's** Annual Cajun Festival takes place on Saturday, Aug. 21, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center Park, Contra Costa at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (whole event) and 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (live music). Admission is free. Wheel chair accessible. A family/child-friendly event. For more information call 548-3333.

**League of Women Voters** (Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville) sponsors its annual Community Luncheon Thursday, Aug. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel on Berkeley Marina. Distinguished speaker is Michael Heyman, Secretary, Smithsonian Institute and Chancellor of the UC-Berkeley, 1980-1990. Greetings by Berkeley mayor, Al Dean, Albany mayor Peggy Hansen, and Emeryville mayor, Gary Miller. RSVP by Friday, Aug. 20. For additional information call 843-8824.

**Oats Community Market**, 1 University Ave., will serve ice cream sundae Tuesday, Aug. 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Ice Cream Social benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters. Donation is \$2. For additional information call 849-1714.

**Mechanics Bank**, the Solano Association and Long John Silver's hosts the 25th Silver Solano Stroll

kick off party on Thursday, Aug. 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mechanics Bank 1801 Solano Ave. The Stroll takes place on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 10 to 6 p.m.

**Learn how to apply** simple henna tattoos in the Edith Stone Room at the Albany Library on Aug. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. It's free. The library is located at 1247 Marin Ave in Albany. Teenagers particularly are welcome. Questions? Call Julie Winkelestein at 526-3720 ext. 19.

**The University of California Botanical Garden** announces extended hours for the summer, continuing through Labor Day, Sept. 6. During this period the garden will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. every

day. Summer hours offer the opportunity to relax in the Garden after work, and to enjoy a picnic supper on the lawn or in the Redwood Grove. Plan some quiet time to take advantage of the soft evening light and the magnificent site. The Botanical Garden is located on Centennial Drive in Strawberry Canyon behind the Memorial Stadium. Call 643-2755 for more information or directions.

**Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

**Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box

11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

**The City of El Cerrito** is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12+ for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4200.

**"Work Buddies"**: volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

**Psychic Healing clinic**; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for

Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

**SMART project**: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

**The Edible Schoolyard**, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1336 for information.

**English-in-Action** lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a con-

versation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 849-9716.

**Women's Daytime Drop-In Center** in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

## Exhibits

**The WCRC Gallery**, 3023 Shattuck Ave., exhibits the artistry of Mickey Spencer, an artist in her 70s who in-

See CALENDAR, Page C8

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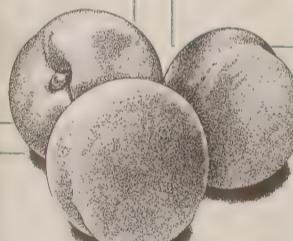
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By David J. Kahn / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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123 Deepest of the Finger Lakes

124 Sea cow

125 Book that's not read much

126 Quick round of tennis

127 Everett of "An Ideal Husband" novelist

128 "Villette" novelist

1 Be a success in life

2 Find — for the common cold

3 1994 Best Original Screenplay winner

4 Room extension

5 Cheering word

6 Hit letters

7 Group

8 Hemingway setting

9 Coffee orders

10 Circus cry

11 Jeanne, e.g.: Abb.

12 Piece of pipe

13 Gym shapes

14 "Respect for Acting" author Hagen

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16 Ignes fatui

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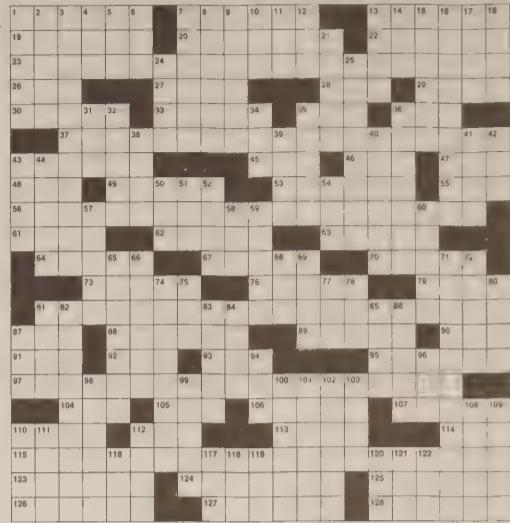
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18 "Oliver Twist" girl



72 Architectural column support

73 Frequent negotiator with the P.L.O.

74 Blasphemy

75 Jackie's O

76 Result of a failure

77 Blast

78 Hoopsters

79 Scribble (down)

80 Mediate

81 Campus figure

82 Rehearsal

83 Subject of wishful thinking?

84 1999 Ron Howard satire

85 Consumer Reports report

86 Slippage preventer

87 Scribble (down)

88 Mediate

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96 Fire

97 Office break time, maybe

98 Angles

99 Mineral named for a French physicist

100 Judge, at work

101 Draft proposal for a treaty

102 Safari

103 Staff

104 Charged

105 Newspaper section

106 Guys

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108

109

110 Mr. Moto reaction

111 81-Down, often

112 Twack

113 First-class

114 Old political alliance: Abbr.

115 Safari

116 Executive Fed. agcy.

117 38-Down benchmark

118 "Is that —?"

## Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

invented "paper painting." The show runs Aug. 21 through Sept. 30. The reception takes place on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursdays 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment. For additional information call 548-9272.

**ACCI Gallery**, 1652 Shattuck Ave., presents New Work: The 3P's Painting-Paper-Pottery on Aug. 27 to Oct. 2. An Artist reception takes place on Aug. 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 843-2527 for additional information.

**The Berkeley Potters Guild** holds its 28th annual winter holiday sale dur-

ing the weekends of Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 4-5 and during the entire week of Dec. 11-23. Nineteen Guild members will display current works throughout their complex of open studios. The guild is located at 731 Jones St. at 4th St., just off the Gilman St. exit of I-80. Call 524-7031 or visit the Web site at BerkeleyPotters.com.

**University Lutheran Chapel**, 2425 College Avenue, hosts an exhibition of paintings by the artist Jeffrey Sully, from Aug. 21 to Oct. 23. A reception takes place on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 843-6230.

**UC-Berkeley Art Museum** and Pacific Film Archive presents the latest exhibition in the Matrix Program for Contemporary Art "Tobias Rehberger/Matrix/180 Sunny-side up," on Aug. 29, through Nov. 14. Re-

hberger is a conceptual artist from Germany. The exhibit will be his first one-person museum exhibition in North America. Call 642-2250 for additional information.

**"With Ears Wide Shut,"** photographs by Timothy Andrew Phelan, will be on exhibit through Aug. 31, at Cafe Milano, 2522 Bancroft Ave. Cafe hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Aug. 15 and from Aug. 16 through 31, until midnight. Call 644-3100 for directions and details.

**Photographs by Charles Klein** will be on exhibit through Sept. 4, at the Photolab Gallery, 2235 Fifth St.

**A New Leaf Gallery**, 1286, Gilman St., is sponsoring an exhibit from Aug. 14 through Sept. 12 entitled "Censored!"—Sculptors Responding to the Wave of Puritanism in the '90s. The gallery has put out a national call to sculptors. The show will be juried by

Philip Linhares, Chief Curator at the Oakland Museum. An associated reception to benefit the ACLA Foundation of Northern California will take place on Aug. 14 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15. This show addresses the issue of censorship in the arts. For additional information call 525-7621.

**The Claremont Gallery**, 2907 Claremont Ave., presents "Southwest Passages" through Oct. 31. Call 848-9300 for additional information.

**"Playpen,"** a group exhibition co-curated by Genari SF and Traywick Gallery, will be open to the public through Aug. 29. The exhibit takes place at Traywick Gallery, 1316 Tenth St., Berkeley. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Call 527-1214 or 415-824-6521 for additional information.

**Alta Bates Medical Center** presents work by members of the California Wa-



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tercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

**The Richmond Art Center**, 2540 Barrett Ave., presents a new exhibition that runs through Sept. 4. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, noon-4:30 p.m. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. Call 620-6772 for additional information.

**Roots and Memory:** A Portrait of the Last Moroccan Jews of the Atlas and Sahara continues through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 549-9590.

**"Still Here: The Jews of the Pale of Settlement,"** — A photographic exhibition by Peggy Myers is on view through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 620-6772.

**The Albany Arts Committee** exhibits "Facing Change," continues through Sept. 9 at the Albany Foyer Gallery, 2439 Marin Ave. The exhibit represents three eighth grade Albany Art classes led by art teacher Meg Brady.

**New Pieces Gallery** presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilt and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

## Literary Events

**Author Don Pearce** presents the first of a three part series on "Disaster Preparedness" on Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at the Northern California Builders Booksource, 1817 Fourth St. Reservations required. For additional information, call 845-6874.

**The Restoration Bookshop**, Center for Eastern Orthodox Spirituality, 1708 University Ave., presents a Thursday night lecture series, 7:30 p.m. Lecture topics include "Christ the Eternal Tao, The Disappearance of a Culture Imbued with Grace: A Historical Overview of the Development of Modern Times, St. John the Baptist, St. Herman of Alaska, Nathanael Hawthorne: Sons of our Fathers, the Power of Neo-Martyrdom, and Prison Ministry. The lectures are free. Call 665-4124 for dates and details.

**"Daily Word"** readers: Study Unity principles at Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m. Contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

**"Strong Women: Writers and Heroes of American Literature,"** 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. every Thursday, free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program; Helen Ripper Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

## Meetings

**"Friends of the Garden** meet Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. For addi-

tional information

tion, call 549-9590.

**Joy of Yiddish**

at 10 a.m. Aug. 15.

additions, call 549-9590.

**The Berkeley Community**

Toastmasters Club

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**The Berkeley Arts**

Education Fund

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PEGGY MYERS

ACHER of Toah to elderly Jews at Hesed Avot, the Jewish world organization in Kiev, 1997 is part of "Still Here: The Jews of the Pale of Emptiness" by photographer Peggy Myers is on exhibit at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley through Oct. 31.

## Calendar

ON PAGE C8

**Basic Speaking Skills** and meta-physics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 9 p.m., 2515 Hillelsgass Ave., Call 528-547 for details.

**Intimacy and Healing**. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second and Wednesday of each month in San Francisco. Call 528-1235 for information.

**Health Toastmasters Club** meets every second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:10 to 1 p.m. at the State Health Building, 1500 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

**Alignment?** 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

days; fun, informative seminars creative partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 3830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-520

**Arthritis Support Groups** - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503.

for additional special events.

**Dieters Anonymous**, a 12 step group providing free aid for those with eating problems, noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) John's Church, 2727 College Ave., Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Hospital, 901 Nevins (take Elevator the third floor). For further information, 233-9292.

9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stage St. at Mann: 233-2948 or Karen, 883-6708

**Metaphysical Toastmasters**, meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 526-5331

**Outdoors**

**East Bay Regional Parks** Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tour by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021

**Support**

**Assess Your Aptitudes** is the workshop topic at the Turning Point Career Center, 2260 Bancroft Way, on Thursday, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Aug. 28, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. For more information call 848-6370

**Berkeley Arthritis Support** and Education Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Henick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. No advance reservations required, drop-in anytime. Friends and family are welcome to attend. For directions or more information, call 204-4503

**Hibromyalgia Support Group** meets on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from noon to 2 p.m., at Alta Bates Medical Center, 2001 Dwight Way, 204-0550 for additional information

**Women-Writers and Heroes of American Literature** meet on Thursdays 11:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. This

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**REUNIONS**

## REUNIONS

Berkeley High School's Class of 1974 will hold its 25th class reunion at the Berkeley Marina Radisson Hotel on Saturday, Sept. 18. All interested Berkeley High School graduates should call for reservations and information at 654-9774.

Berkeley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

El Cerrito High School, Class of 1979, is organizing its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Skyline High School, Class of 1979, is planning its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Holiday Inn-Bay Bridge in Emeryville. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Miramonte High School, Class of 1979, is searching for alumni for its 20-year reunion, which is scheduled for July 24-25, 1999, in the Walnut Creek area. Contact Ellie Kessler Vierra, reunion committee coordinator, at 1-916-933-1826, or e-mail at [gmeredit@sonic.net](mailto:gmeredit@sonic.net).

George Washington High School, Class of 1944, in San Francisco is holding its 55-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Embassy Suites at the San Francisco International Airport. Contact Barbara Levey at 1-415-884-2330.

Polytechnic High School, classes of fall 1948, spring 1949 and fall 1949, in San Francisco is planning its 50-year anniversary for October 1999. For information, contact Dick and Marylou (Emerson) Ellis at 1-925-672-4753.

Richmond Union High class of 1954 will have a reunion Oct. 16 in Walnut Creek. Call 925-228-6980 or 925-228-8024 for details.

San Lorenzo Valley High School, Class of 1989, is organizing its 10-year reunion. To pass along updated information of classmates, call or fax Melvin McMullen, 120 W. 49th St., San Bernardino (92407-3202).

Ygnacio Valley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek. Contact Reunion Masters at 1-408-788-7888 or 1-800-359-7888.

Polytechnic High School, classes of fall 1948, spring 1949 and fall 1949, in San Francisco is planning its 50-year anniversary for October 1999. For information, contact Dick and Marylou (Emerson) Ellis at 1-925-672-4753.

San Lorenzo Valley High School, Class of 1989, is organizing its 10-year reunion.

To pass along updated information of classmates, call or fax Jenni (Markley) Allen at 1-925-754-7231, or e-mail at [Callen3079@aol.com](mailto:Callen3079@aol.com).

Alameda High School, Class of 1979, is making preparations for its 20-year reunion. To help locate class members or to update address information, call Nancy Wiese Slagle at 1-510-889-8487, or Cindy Zecher at 1-510-523-7361.

Arroyo High School, Class of 1979, of San Lorenzo is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, May 22, at the Sheraton Hotel in Pleasanton. Contact Reunion Masters at 1-408-448-7888 or 1-800-359-7888.

Newark Memorial High School, Class of 1989, is planning its 10-year reunion for Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Holiday Inn San Jose. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

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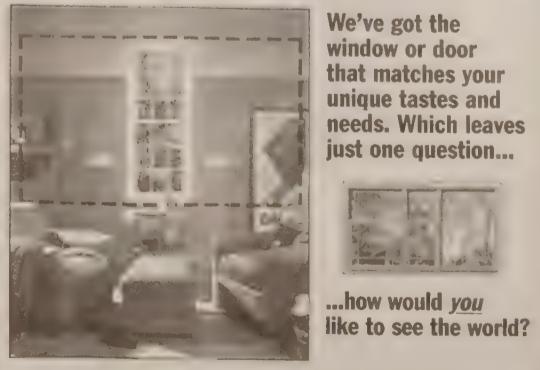


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# Senior Living | Advertising Feature

## Quality home health care: it's your decision

Do you have plans for home health care should you or a loved one need it?

Most people don't think about home health care until it is absolutely necessary. But before you make any decisions, it's important to know what your options are. Having a wide variety of choices when purchasing goods and services is usually taken for granted. Only recently have Americans expected the freedom of choice in home health care.

"When it comes to home care, most people do not think about it until they have to," says Robert J. Olson, senior vice president, Nursing and Infusion Services, Olsten Health Services, North America's largest home health organization. "Plan now that they do have a choice when it comes to home care. It's certainly worth exploring before home care is needed."

Frequently, patients and their families rely on others to make home-care decisions for them because they haven't taken the time to locate a company well suited to their needs. So how can you do your own homework?

First, find out if you are entitled to home health

care visits through your insurance company, HMO or Medicare plan. If you are, you will want to find out if you must use a designated company or companies, or if you are free to make your own choice. Patients should know that federal law now requires hospitals to give them a list of home-care agencies as part of the discharge planning process.

If you have the right to choose your home-care agency, interview several home-care agencies to find the right one for you or your loved one. Individuals should ask specific questions about the qualifications of the company's caregivers," advises Nixon. "Just as physicians provide different levels of skill and expertise, so do companies that send nurses and medical equipment to the home."

According to Nixon, a reputable company will carefully screen its nurses, home health aides, therapists and other employees. This may include criminal background checks, license and certification verification, as well as skills testing. Another plus for a home-care agency is accreditation by the Joint Commission (JCAHO), an independent accrediting organization that evaluates thousands of hospitals

and home-care agencies each year.

You also should inquire about each company's service capabilities. "Not all providers offer a full range of services," says Nixon. But some companies, like Olsten, can coordinate all home-care needs—nurses, aides, equipment, infusion therapy, respiratory therapy—with one call. Many companies also offer specialized management programs for conditions such as diabetes and asthma, as well as post-operative programs for hip or knee replacement and cardiac rehabilitation.

Additionally, you should gather information on geographic areas served, billing practices, contract terms and hours of service. Ask as many questions as you need to feel comfortable.

Remember, the best time to decide about home health care is before it is needed. Taking time now to select the right health care provider for you or a loved one will pay dividends in the future. For more information and a free brochure, call Olsten Health Services at 1-800-HOME NOWSM (1-800-466-3669), or visit [www.olstenhealth.com](http://www.olstenhealth.com) on the Internet.

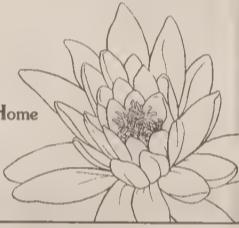
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Make sure you pay attention to the reputation of the insurance company you choose. Know how long the insurer has been in business and what

kind of grade it has been assigned by insurance rating agencies like Moody's, Standard & Poor and others. This kind of reliability and peace of mind really has no price tag.

It's very important to determine how much coverage you actually need. Many financial experts recommend that you carry life insurance equal to five to 10 times your annual income.

While this amount can serve as a guideline, your personal needs may differ. It's important to have enough life insurance, but there is no need to over-insure yourself. For a free insurance-needs assessment which details how much term life insurance is appropriate for you, call Zurich Direct at 1-800-409-0903.



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# BART was originally intended to circle the Bay

BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Imagine hopping on a BART train and catching a ride to Palo Alto or across the Golden Gate Bridge.

A 1975 U.S. Department of Transportation study of the system said that BART was originally intended to be a unified system that would integrate the transportation requirements of citizens living in six Bay area counties.

Ron Rodriguez, a BART spokesman and fourth-generation Bay area resident, says you would find more commercial development located near BART lines in the south counties, and less along the freeways, if the system had been built as originally intended.

"If you look along the BART routes, what were once the suburbs, now you find commercial developments that run the gamut from Bank of America in Concord to PeopleSoft in Dublin/Pleasanton," he said. "You would have more of that. Instead, Silicon Valley companies located near expressways."

The military first became involved in Bay area transportation because its poor quality hampered the war effort.

In 1941 a joint Army-Navy board had been appointed to investigate — from a national defense standpoint — the need of a bridge from Hunters Point to Bay Farm Island. In case you couldn't tell, they found no need.

The board was reconvened to study the congestion problem in 1943 and continued for three years, holding extensive public hearings and creating 20 plans that all contained some kind of Bay crossing.

In January of 1947, the board issued a report saying the "transbay problem cannot be solved by indefinitely continuing to add crossings for vehicular traffic." The board recommended that the long-range solution (i.e. rapid transit) should be considered rather than the short-range solution (i.e. an additional bridge).

Thus, BART was conceived.

BART was created by the state on Sept. 11, 1957, and its planners' origi-

nal plans included San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Marin counties. The transportation district was defined, and it was mandated that it be a fixed rail system.

The ultimate territorial extent of the district would be based on the approval of county boards of supervisors.

At the county's request, the state Legislature originally excluded Santa Clara County from its mandate. Apparently, Santa Clara's leaders didn't like the manner in which the system was to be built.

BART was scheduled to be constructed in three phases, with most of the Santa Clara County segment, which involved extending the line into San Jose, to be built in the second phase.

Santa Clara's only involvement in the first phase construction was scheduled for Palo Alto, which, in the view of Santa Clara County's Board of Supervisors, provided little direct benefit for the taxes they would be paying.

On Feb. 18, 1957, the board ad-

vised the Legislature that it did not want to be part of the district.

"The few transportation dollars they did have, they didn't want to spend them on a train that took workers out of Santa Clara County," Rodriguez said. "They wanted the money to improve the roads. I was just told recently that the roads they improved are the modern expressways in Santa Clara County."

San Mateo County left the BART district in December of 1961 because its board didn't want the county to pay for a system that would serve a large number of Santa Clara County residents if they weren't carrying any of the tax burden. The planned San Mateo route would have terminated near Palo Alto at the county border.

Supervisors also felt that the system would promote the county's development as a bedroom community

for San Francisco.

In May of 1961, BART formally asked the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District for permission to allow trains on a second deck of the bridge. An engineering study by BART determined this was feasible but the bridge district retained its own engineers to study the matter.

The bridge district engineers found that the bridge would be unable to withstand the stresses of a two-track deck and its trains. The district's board accepted the report.

A former BART director pointed out that the bridge engineers made some incorrect assumptions about the transit district. They assumed four trains would be running at a time on the bridge while BART assumed two. They also assumed that the cars would weigh 85,000 pounds each, but the BART design was for

cars that weighed 30,000 pounds.

With the dispute over, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District gave the go-ahead and a new board asked Marin County to draw from the district.

The state said that with a final six months of a regional most recent meeting, the day after a billion-dollar Cisco Internet leaders think it's

## Berkeley Library seeks applicants for gate artwork project

The Berkeley Civic Arts Program invites artists who live or work in Berkeley to submit their qualifications to design and build two functional artwork gates for the interior of the renovated Central Library, located at Kittridge Street and Shattuck Avenue.

This competition is open to all interested Berkeley artists; prior experience with public art commissions is not necessary to apply. The deadline for applications is Oct. 8.

The Berkeley Public Library's Central Library is being expanded and renovated for a grand reopening in summer 2000.

The historic and popular Central Library is an art deco architectural gem in the "ZigZag Moderne" style, designed by Berkeley architect James W. Plachek and completed in 1931.

To enhance the renovation project, two functional interior gates will be commissioned from a local artist or team of artists to provide an inspiring focal point to the main floor of the Library.

Under the guidelines, the gates should complement the art deco-era building architecture and be harmonious with other renovations to the Library.

Each gate will be approximately eight feet high by eight feet wide. The gates will be installed in the two archways between the Library's spacious reading room and the non-circulating Local history collection in an adjacent smaller alcove.

To apply, artists must currently reside or work within the Berkeley city limits. Berkeley artists may apply individually or in teams.

Artists working in metal, wood, stone, glass, and other media appropriate for permanent, durable, safe, low-maintenance interior gates will be considered.

Applications must be received in the Berkeley Civic Arts Program office by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8.

Artists will be selected through an open peer panel review process, as stipulated by the city of Berkeley's 1985

Visual Arts Ordinance.

The selection panel will review artists' application materials, including slides of work, resumes, and preliminary artwork concepts, and will select up to four finalists to create proposals for both gates. Finalists will receive a \$250 honorarium to develop design proposals.

The panel will then select one of the proposals to be commissioned at the project site.

The selected artist or artist team will be awarded a \$20,000 commission to design, fabricate and install the two gates based on the selected proposal.

To request an informational "Call for Artists" package about all the Measure S public art projects, including more information and an application form for the Central Library Gates project, contact the Berkeley Civic Arts Program at 510-705-8183 (phone), 510-883-6554 (fax), 510-548-1351 (TDD) or e-mail your request to the Civic Arts Coordinator, Mary Ann Merker-Benton, at [mam4@berkeley.ca.us](mailto:mam4@berkeley.ca.us).

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# The Auto Section

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

August 19, 1999

Section D

**Pump Watch** Activists want your help as gas prices rise again [D2]

**Auto Doctor** Junior Damato knows what ails your car [D3]

**Classified** Tell 'em you saw their ad in Motor Mart [D3]

## Cadillac marks DeVille's 50th with revolution

### Down the Road



By Tom Keane

Rethought ride shows Cadillac at its best.

Fifty years ago, Cadillac introduced the 1949 Coupe de Ville, a car recognized for its revolutionary engine and elegant styling. The DeVille, as its name was shortened over time, evolved into a sedan and became the bestseller for Cadillac, as well as the entire U.S. luxury automobile market. On the golden anniversary of the DeVille, Cadillac introduces a new rendition of the model.

The 2000 DeVille, unveiled at the Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance in Rochester, Mich., and simultaneously live on the Internet, has been completely redesigned this year. The change communicates the change within Cadillac, said General Manager John Smith.

Cadillac has a flurry of new vehicles coming over the next five years, which will bear an entirely new "art and science" design theme. Cadillac's Evaq concept car, an innovative, hard-edged road-



THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of Cadillac's DeVille Coupe ushers in clean lines and comfort for a new century. This marks the start of a flurry of new cars Cadillac plans to introduce over the next five years, according to insiders.

See DEVILLE, Page D2

### Drive, She Said



By Denise McLuggage

"Young men most often succumb to drowsiness while driving. They tend to party the heartiest and try to bull through sleep deprivation..."

**Fall asleep at the wheel, say goodbye**

When a car crashes into a bridge abutment, or shoots off a curve into a ravine with no skid marks, police are fairly certain the driver was asleep at the wheel. The chances are greater if the incident occurs in the early morning and the driver was an hour or so short of home.

Police are more certain the driver nodded off if it was a young male because young men most often succumb to drowsiness while driving. They tend to party the heartiest, push the limits and try to bull through sleep deprivation to get home before it's time to go to work. A candle burning at both ends may make a lovely light, but it casts long shadows.

See SLEEP, Page D2

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# Sleep

FROM PAGE D1

The easy answer is, of course, don't start a drive while tired and don't continue driving when drowsiness sets in. Fatigue is not exclusive to drivers with inadequate sleep. Long dull roads and sitting in one position for long hours are fatiguing. Highway hypnosis, the lack of varied stimuli on wide endless roads, also is a factor.

I once had a sports car whose engine at legal speeds droned in a disturbingly soporific manner. No matter how rested I was when I set out of a morning on the New York Thruway, within an hour my body seemed to buzz in a sympathetic vibration to the engine, a preliminary to drooping eyelids and nodding head.

Two solutions presented themselves: drive 20 miles an hour over

the speed limit, or seek an alternative route that was less constant in nature, more demanding of attention. Driving faster had its appeal, but its legal deterrents. I rejected it.

I chose driving on minor highways and back roads. I followed ways that wended through small towns, slipped past farm produce stands and flicked through shaded alleys of roadside trees. I mixed at times with carts and tractors, mail deliverers, school buses and milk trucks, but I never once felt other than totally alert to my variety-packed environment.

Undoubtedly those routes took me longer, but I never approached being drowsy. When I was competing in rallies in Europe, such at the Monte Carlo and the Liege-Sofia-Liege, long routes with no serious stops, we drivers were always short on restful sleep (grabbing a few winks in a car rocketing through an Alpine night on ice-slicked roads does not qualify).

We were usually high enough on

the adrenaline of competition to keep going. Still, we all had long stretches of driving accompanied with hallucinations. We used to compare them. The train charging across the road where no tracks existed, the cats that stared from the apex of each turn, the little people in conical hats sitting on fallen logs cheering a particularly adroit downshift.

The wisdom held that one might see what wasn't there, but still never missed what really was there (a real train, for instance). Balderdash, of course.

While driving, if you have even a fleeting moment of hallucinating, realize that you are at the edge of being asleep at the wheel. You can kill or be killed. Stop and do something about your condition. What to do to fend off drowsiness? Here are some random ideas, and one sure-fire cure.

■ Carry on an active conversation with a passenger. Such talk should require more than grunted answers.

■ Listen to whatever involves you

more on the radio—a talk show you can shout back at, or music you can sing along with. Be alert to either one becoming mere, soothing white noise. Soothing is not what you need.

■ Keep the interior climate a little on the chilly side. If the ambient air approaches the temperature of amniotic fluid, you are in trouble.

■ Chew on something that is noisy such as raw carrots, celery sticks, or something with a zing to it. Some of my rally mates swore by sucking on a lemon wedge. Sort of like biting an electric wire. As for caffeine in coffee or cola, it comes with a letdown after the pickup, so be wary.

■ Take an active break. Get out of the car and trot around for a few minutes.

■ Swap drivers frequently, if you have someone driving with you. And here is the only sure thing: Stop and sleep. Call the day done and find a motel. If catnaps work for you take a 10 to 20 minute snooze in the car. Just don't drive drowsy.

## Jimmy's new suit

GMC celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Jimmy in 1999. What better way to celebrate than outfitting it in a new way? The result is the 2000 Jimmy Diamond Edition, which features grille guards, side steps and interior amenities expressive of luxury. Jimmy Diamond's Onyx Black body color is a dramatic backdrop for its brushed aluminum accents. Inside are diamond-quilted, perforated leather seats. Triple diamond-embroidered berber mats protect the front and rear seating area floors.

## GM sells up a storm

General Motors sold 424,048 vehicles in July, up 62.4 percent from a year ago when the company was in the midst of a 54 day work stoppage. Truck sales, at 1,407,222 to

date and 5.3 percent year ago, have fourth straight 2% truck sales.

## Silverado, Sierra direct-inject

General Motors' new direct-inject, the 2001 Chevy GMC Sierra trucks. The 3.4-liter turbocharged engine of the most precision-injection systems in the market. It will provide significant improvements in power, torque, fuel economy and a quieter operation.

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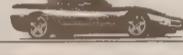
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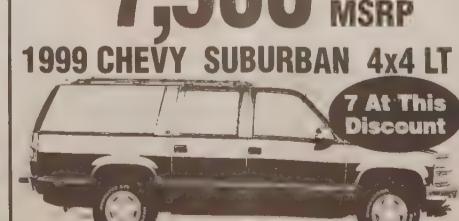
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Eligible vehicles must have MSRP

# Driver sees speedo go on blink

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup with 62,000 miles. Last week, on the freeway while traveling at 65 mph with the cruise control on, the speedometer went down to 35 mph and back to 65 mph in a couple of seconds, without the truck changing speed. My son, who is a mechanic, said the Chevy pickup does not have a speedometer cable to lubricate. What could be the problem? Rob

Dear Rob: The speedometer is electronically controlled from the computer which gets a speed signal from the transmission speed sensor. If the speed sensor was faulty it would have caused a change in the cruise control speed. I would have to say the problem lies in the electronic speedometer head unit. You will need to ask the dealer for the name of the electronic service center in your area.

## Check recalls for Concorde

Dear Doctor: I own a 1995 Chrysler Concorde 3.3-liter V6 which I purchased new. Within a year, I had to make several trips to the dealer for transmission slippage. Finally, they installed a complete transmission. The car currently has 70,000 miles on it, and the transmission has been replaced three additional times. Thank goodness for the extended warranty! At this point, however, it is out of warranty, and the car will need more transmission work, along with a faulty air conditioning unit. Why weren't these cars recalled for the parts that failed? Francine

Dear Francine: It's no secret that Chrysler products have had their share of problems, including transmission, final drive whine and air conditioning units. Cars are recalled for safety problems. Part failures like yours should be replaced under service campaigns. I would think that a transmission failure should be under a safety recall, because if this transmission fails, it can go into a limp-home mode at a reduced speed. You may want to talk to the dealer principle about an extended warranty at exchange to you, and a voucher good toward the purchase of a new car.

## Buyns kit may help steering

Dear Doctor: I own a 1987 Mercury Sable with 125,000 miles. Recently, during hot weather driving about five miles, I heard a humming sound from under the hood. At the same time, the power steering gets hard to turn. I can also feel a slight vibration from the steering wheel.

## Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato

Does this sound like a faulty power steering rack unit or power steering pump? Would changing the power steering fluid help? If so, how can I change the fluid? Robert

Dear Robert: It does sound like

the power steering pump is internally binding. You can try changing the power steering fluid with a machine from Wynn's. They sell a flush kit and also have a self contained power steering flush machine. I own two of them, and they work great. This should be the first step to take in making the repair.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.



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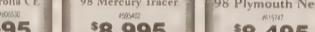
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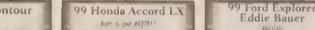
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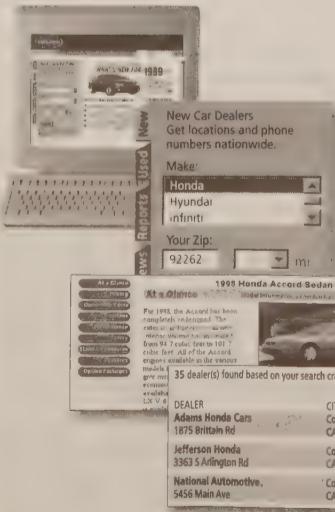
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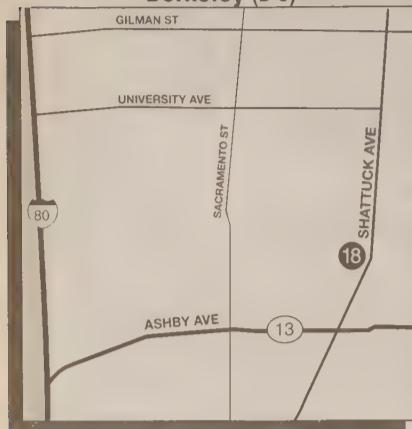
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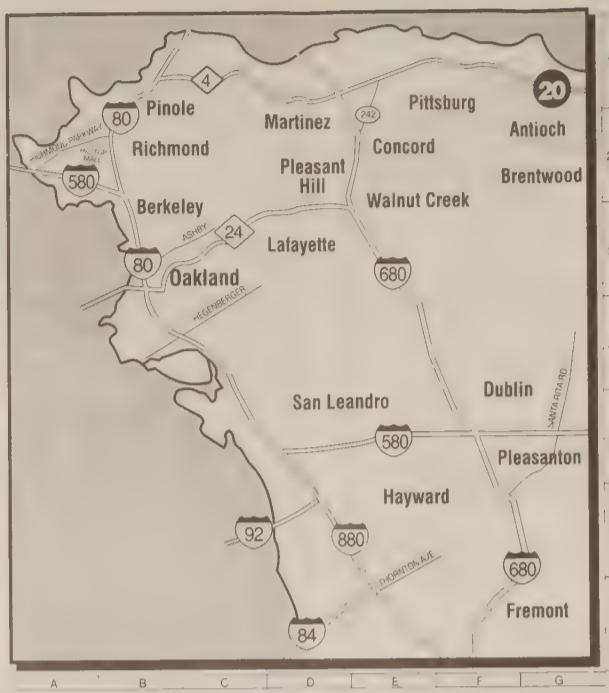
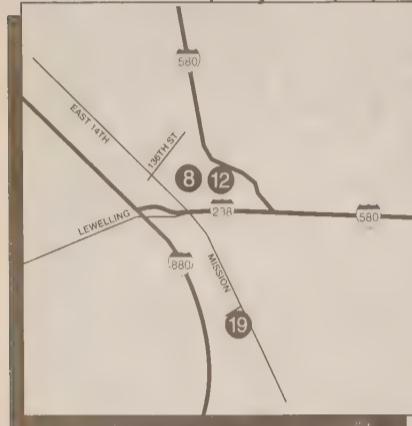
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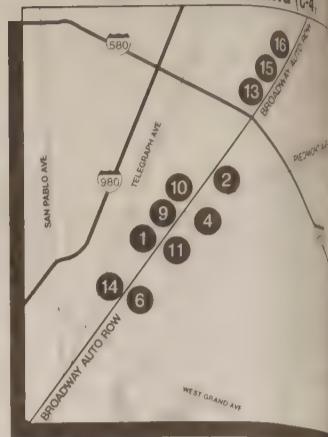
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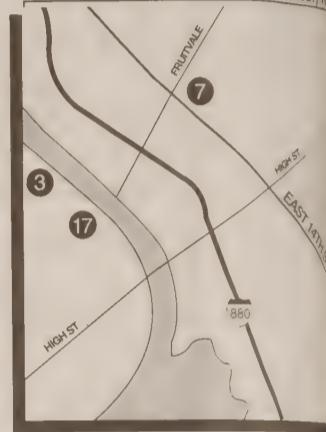
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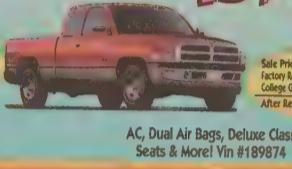
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August 19, 1999

## Cookbook showcases Southern cooking's real glory: fruits and vegetables

By Kristin Eddy  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Southern states made their culinary reputations on such meaty dishes as fried chicken, pork barbecue and country ham. But spend any time in the South and you'll see that the real glory of Southern cooking is in the "vegetable plate," a feature at many restaurants and a fixture at many homes.

Crowd the supper dish with amounts of luxuriously creamed corn, shreds of tender slow-cooked mustard greens; fried pods of tiny okra, sliced yellow tomatoes, and sautéed new peas — there's scarcely room left for a chicken wing.

That's just fine with many diners, especially in the summer when farm stands and home gardens are working overtime. But a new cookbook, "Butter Beans To Blackberries: Recipes from a Southern Garden" (North Point Press, \$30), by Ronni Lundy, would be welcome even in the dead of winter.

Lundy, a Kentucky-based cookbook author, is obviously crazy about simply cooked fresh fruits and vegetables and has a knack for passing that pleasure on to the reader. With a chatty, informal narrative, personal anecdotes and excerpts from Southern fiction, Lundy draws a picture of a region where your preference in beans is in identifying trait:

"If you favor soupy pinto beans served up with golden wedges of cornbread, that probably means you come from the mountain South, while folks from the coastal areas are apt to choose highly seasoned red or black beans slopped up with rice. Somewhere in the middle are folks who like

both, and are partial to white navy beans and dried butter beans as well. Although the methods of preparation for dried beans are time-consuming, even the busiest two-career families in the South still make time, especially in the damp chill of winter, when nothing says 'home' like the steam from a pot of seasoned beans."

There are no color food photographs to enliven the text, but the recipes are easy to follow and shouldn't intimidate new cooks. They range from the classic, such as long-cooked string beans with salt pork, and tomatoes stuffed with egg salad, but there are some new ideas here, such as crawfish corn cakes with smoked tomato sauce, and pattypan squash, leek and buttermilk soup.

We tried some really yummy mashed sweet potatoes, beautifully spiced with brown sugar and red pepper and garnished with toasted spiced peanuts. Separately or together, these two recipes were winners. Everyone also gobbled up the white Cheddar cheese grits, baked until firm, then sliced and fried in peanut oil. Tender and crispy, the grits cakes make a fine snack on their own, or could be topped with braised mushrooms or creamed shellfish for a deluxe dinner.

We finished with pie; it wouldn't be a Southern meal without dessert. The banana cream pie got its "Black Bottom" name from a crust brushed with melted chocolate and its tender appeal from a lightly sweet banana custard filling and drifts of softly whipped cream on top.

With a dessert like this, you won't mind finishing all your vegetables. With a book like this, the



SUMMER IS THE RIGHT TIME for the fresh taste of melons. Now the traditional melons such as cantaloupe and watermelon are joined by more exotic selections such as Juan Canary and Santa Claus.

vegetables will be part of the fun.

### Black-Bottom Banana Cream Pie

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
Chilling time: 2 hours  
Cooking time: 5 minutes  
Yield: 8 servings  
8-inch prebaked pie crust  
1 cup milk  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 egg  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter  
3 ounces semi-sweet chocolate  
4 firm but ripe bananas  
1 cup whipping cream  
3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla  
1. The crust needs to be completely cooled before filling.

2. To make a pastry cream, heat the milk in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Mix together the cornstarch, sugar and egg. When the milk is steaming, drizzle some into the egg mixture, whisking as you do. Then whisk the mixture into the remaining milk. Bring to a boil and remove from the heat. Add 1 tablespoon of butter. Set aside to cool.

3. While the pastry cream is cooling, melt the chocolate with the remaining butter over hot water. Pour it into the bottom of the cooled pie crust, spreading it with a spatula to cover the crust evenly. Place it in the refrigerator to chill.

4. When the chocolate is chilled and the pastry cream is cool, peel the bananas and slice them about 1/2-inch thick. Fold the bananas into the pastry cream and pour it into the pie crust. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to serve.

5. Take the pie from the refrigerator at least 15 minutes before you are ready to cut it. This al-

lows the chocolate to soften enough to make cutting easy and to bring out the full flavor. Whip the cream with the confectioners' sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Spread it over the top of the pie.

—From "Butter Beans to Blackberries: Recipes from a Southern Garden," by Ronni Lundy.

Nutrition information per serving:  
Calories 430  
Fat 28 g  
Saturated fat 14 g  
% calories from fat 55  
Cholesterol 80 mg  
Sodium 160 mg  
Carbohydrates 45 g  
Protein 4.8 g  
Fiber 3 g

"Many post-World War II recipes load sweet potatoes with added sugar and flavorings. This recipe presents the potato with only enough sugar and spice to bring out its natural sweetness," writes Ronni Lundy in "Butter Beans to Blackberries: Recipes from a Southern Garden."

Suble Sugar and Spice Sweet Potatoes With Peanuts

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
Cooking time: 12 minutes  
Yield: 4 servings  
2 large sweet potatoes  
1 tablespoon butter  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne or red chili pepper  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/4 cup coarsely crushed toasted and spiced peanuts, recipe follows

1. Half-fill a large saucepan with water and bring it to a boil. While you are waiting for the water to boil,

Please see FRUIT, Page 2

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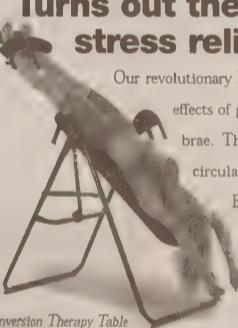
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# Roofing options: shingles and tiles

By Popular Mechanics  
AP SPECIAL FEATURES

Today there's a wide choice of roofing materials available. While all are durable, each has its own advantages and tradeoffs. Let's take a close look at two popular choices: Asphalt shingles and cementitious roof tiles.

Asphalt shingles are the most common roofing material, and they come in two broad categories — organic based and fiberglass.

Organic base means that the shingles are made of a cellulose mat saturated with asphalt and covered with mineral granules.

Fiberglass shingles have a mat of woven glass fiber saturated with asphalt and covered with mineral granules.

Organic shingles have a Class C rating while fiberglass shingles have a Class A rating.

An important difference between the two types of shingles is that organic types are more flexible in cold weather than fiberglass types. Manufacturers, however, say that a properly installed fiberglass shingle is as good as any.

The two most common types of asphalt shingle are three-tab (also called a strip shingle) and architectural (also called a laminate shingle).

A three-tab shingle is a rectangular mat with two slots cut in its front edge. The slots provide stress

relief as the shingle expands and contracts with the weather.

An architectural shingle has a heavy base mat and another mat or sections of mat applied on top of it.

Aside from making the shingle heavier and more durable, this construction gives the roof shadow lines and character like a tile or wood roof.

A standard three-tab shingle can be organic or fiberglass based. Most architectural shingles have a fiberglass mat, although some are organic.

Finally, there are regional and specialized forms of asphalt roofing, such as a highly wind resistant shingle called a T-lock. This is a slotted T-shaped shingle that locks to the shingle below and to the shingle above.

Cementitious roof tiles offer traditional looks combined with the benefit of modern materials.

These products are made from cellulose fiber-reinforced portland cement or concrete. They are available in red, black, white, green and gray, and they can be molded to look like wood shingles, barrel-shaped tiles or slate.

The strong suit of cementitious roofing tiles is their durability. Because they are a masonry material, they resist weathering, insects and fire. Their nearly impenetrable surface also resists fungus.

# Keep your castle tidy as a palace

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — If you think keeping the dust off your knick-knack collection is a chore, consider the challenge faced by Kate Frame.

Frame, a Canadian conservator who last year was named chief housekeeper for the entity known as Historic Royal Palaces, is responsible for care and conservation of thousands of priceless ceramics, tapestries, furniture and art works, dating from the Tudor era to the Renaissance, found in some of Britain's best known royal properties.

Her charge includes the Tower of London, the Banqueting House at Whitehall, and the State Apartments at Kensington Palace, all in central London; and Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace with Queen Charlotte's Cottage in the city's suburbs.

She pays careful attention to cleaning and upkeep of stone, woodwork, metal, silver, gold, paper, paint, fabrics, ivory, china and glass.

You do not throw out royal relics because they wear out, you are tired of them, or you don't like the color; maintenance and preservation are Frame's responsibility.

She pays careful attention to cleaning and upkeep of stone, woodwork, metal, silver, gold, paper, paint, fabrics, ivory, china and glass.

Never use a spray polish, which can leave a nasty sheen from chemical propellants.

Removing ring marks from wooden furniture is a headache in any house. "Some people swear by cigarette ash, but I use several

You can save your own treasures the same way, she suggests.

"The key to keeping a house or a palace in good order is to fight dust. It is acidic, and bugs love it," Frame says. Dust and insects can quickly erode upholstery, curtains and wallpaper.

Her staff uses hemmed cotton dustcloths, special polishes, charmois, bubble wrap and soft-bristled brushes, along with old-fashioned elbow grease, to keep the palace gleaming.

She offers suggestions to keep your own little palace in trim:

— Choose a furniture polish with a quality mix of beeswax and carnauba wax. It should be a shade lighter than the wood; darker ones may stain.

— Polish only once a year, using as little wax as possible. Too much wax will attract dust and look smeary.

— Never use a spray polish, which can leave a nasty sheen from chemical propellants.

— Removing ring marks from wooden furniture is a headache in any house. "Some people swear by cigarette ash, but I use several

Please see TIDY, Page 4

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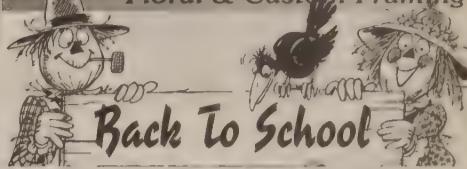
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# Planning on selling? Ten decorating don'ts

Selling your property, even under the current favorable market situation, requires planning and strategy.

Unless you recently escaped from an alien abduction you know that condition is a big factor in realizing the best return on your property.

You probably also know that you can ask for a market analysis from your real estate agent and that your agent will help you to understand where your property should be priced.

Real estate professionals are often called in for their expert advice after the seller has completed preparations for the sale. The owner probably wants the agent to see the property in its best light so that the asking price reflects the highest possible amount.

Sadly, the agent sometimes has to tell the prospective seller that the brand new carpet or wallpaper is not the best choice. In some cases the improvements actually detract from the property's desirability and price.

How can you avoid spending time and money on improvements that may not work?

Bring the agent in early even if you're a little embarrassed by the collection of 20-year-old soft drink bottles in the garage.

If you just can't face show and tell in your property's current state and are driven to "do something first" here are some guidelines to help you avoid the most common mistakes.

**Cleanliness:** Don't ignore the dirt. While cleanliness is not really a decorating issue, it is paramount.

No matter how expensive the Italian tile in the master bath was



MARY D'ANGELO

no one will want it if it is not gleaming. Sellers who mistakenly expect buyers to turn a blind eye to grubby grout will be surprised by lower offers.

If you can afford it, have a professional cleaning service start things off by thoroughly scrubbing and polishing every room in the house. Or skimp, if you must, and have the professionals do just the kitchen and baths and windows.

Don't forget that buyers accept or reject your property based on all of their senses. A beautiful home that smells stale with pet or food odors will be at a disadvantage.

You can't do much to control noise outside of your property. Inside you can turn down the volume on phones and televisions or even play soothing music.

**Walls:** Don't consider the walls a blank canvas to showcase your unusual.

Transferees have mastered the art of keeping their property in show condition. Blah Beige or shades of white are universally used by people who may have to move with very little notice.

You can live with the neutrals indefinitely, without getting bored, by careful use of color and pattern in accent pieces, in the furnishings, area rugs and wall art.

If you can't pass up a paint or wallpaper color that makes a strong statement keep it localized to one

small wall or one door, etc. The wallpaper you see as cheerful, a potential buyer may think of as "screaming". Even small, conservative patterns can be perceived as a problem. To the tiny Victorian floral in pastels is pretty, to someone else it's dated.

**Collections:** People collect the strangest things! From fertility fetish figures, to suggestive advertising slogans, Realtors see it all.

If you are a collector it is in your best interest to remove anything from view that distracts potential buyers from focusing on the property. Pack it up and store it off site. You have to pack to move, anyway. You might as well do it early and take your time. The added plus here is that your valuables are not at risk of breakage or theft during showings.

Theft and breakage do not occur often. Agents go to great lengths to avoid any mishap while marketing your property.

Meet your agent halfway and eliminate the possibility before you start. That will give both you and your agent peace of mind.

**Personal photographs:** Many of us have masses of them. A montage of photos covering the walls can be very distracting. Most of our photos have emotional value but are not going to nudge Ansel Adams out of the art market.

When selling, cull the ones you can live without and pack them up. Patch the nail holes and repaint.

Possible buyers can then visualize their own family photos marching up the stairway. And please, unless you're Andre the Giant, hang those pictures at eye level.

**The cave look:** Light and bright sells. This is why Realtors insist

upon turning on all the lights and opening the drapes during an open house.

If your window coverings obscure most of the natural light you may want to make some changes. Sometimes it's as simple as removing a layer of window coverings.

Look critically at your window treatments. Could you brighten things up by using only the sheers and valance? Or just the valance and blinds?

Replace any very low wattage light bulbs in lamps, but be sure to keep within the lamp manufacturer's guidelines.

**Oversuffed rooms and massive furniture:** Realistically, most of us can't afford to replace furniture just to get a higher price or to help our property sell faster. But you can move the largest, or most shabby, pieces to a storage site just for a month or so while you sell.

If you bought a charming rocker or plant stand at a garage sale and have absolutely no place to put it, it's time to move it out.

Decorators focus on scale as well as color, comfort and style when furnishing a home. Unless you have cathedral ceilings, very high highboys can make buyers feel as though they have dropped through the rabbit hole and are shrinking to the size of Alice in Wonderland.

**Avoid barriers:** The whole idea is for people to see and evaluate the space. If they are not comfortable walking into a room, because they have to navigate a path around the sofa, squeeze by the coffee table and inch around the magazine stand, they will not enter the

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# 400 Million Youths for Purity

A New Sexual Revolution is happening promoted by a high energy, active and successful group of young people. The Pure Love Alliance, which was founded in 1996 and has chapters in major US cities and in twenty countries worldwide.

My name is Paul Nojima, I am 19 years old, and have spent the last year in Chicago volunteering for the Pure Love Alliance. Recently, the PLA has introduced a new curriculum for public schools called C.L.U.E. (Creating Love and Uplifting Esteem), which I had the privilege of teaching. We started out with almost nothing to work with. A person named Cathy Spirito initiated the PLA into the local schools of the area. Even to the extreme of posing as a teacher applicant, and once face-to-face with the principal, introduced CLUE. But the main idea was for the teachers to be young people, which was why my friend Eunha Stein and myself were chosen as teachers. I cannot tell you how apprehensive I was to begin with. The first school I was to teach in was called La Casas Occupational High School, a school for incredibly dysfunctional children with immense family problems. I am not at liberty to tell of the children's experiences at home, that is to be kept under strict confidence...however I assure you, it is horrible what they have to go through.

It was hard, to say the least. We would have about 3 classes in each school to teach, however only having two schools to begin with, we figured we could do it.

Now let me tell you, the job of teaching these inner-city kids the ideal of family and importance of characters, is without a doubt extremely difficult; however the rewards are immeasurable. I remember sitting in the hall with Eunha, waiting for our next class, discussing how our previous class went (it went very well), when all of a sudden a guy from that class approaches us and thanks us for being there. He was so impressed with how real and dangerous the free-sex lifestyle could be, a lifestyle he was very close to. But because of our efforts, he was dedicated to change his ways. Later on, as we were leaving to check-in with the main office, we informed Tom O'Grady, the head counselor at the school, about this young man who approached us. When we told him who it was, his disbelief shot out through the office, and he literally danced where he stood (he really did!). Once he calmed down, he shook our hands, and said "Maybe there is hope for these kids after all!" This was the first of many rewarding experiences to come.

The positive results from these students were large, but subtle. For example, in the beginning of each new class we would teach, we would have a pre-test to discover what kind of situation and frame of thought they were in. And at the end of the 10 weeks, we would give them the exact same test again, and see just how much they had intellectually gained from the past weeks. In every school, in every class we taught, the changes were amazing, for example, with the question: "Can teenagers abstain from sexual activity until they are married?" Before: 37%, After: 74%; "The Best way to avoid STD's and unwanted pregnancies is to abstain from sex until Marriage?" Before: 64%, After: 100%.

This is just a small example of how effective the basic teaching of sexual abstinence before marriage is. What really impresses me, is that we would only teach once a week, for 10 weeks. So in essence, we only taught ten days. I can't wait to see what happens when this becomes a legalized public school curriculum!

Toward the end of the year, when school was out for summer break, we didn't go on vacation. We stayed in the office and continued to contact all the schools that we could, introducing a curriculum that can change people's lives. The confirmations and support became very numerous. Because of my school situation, I had to leave in the middle of June, but even then, we had already confirmed 23 schools lined up for next fall. I can't wait to see the results, I just wish I could be there to support and help out. But that is not the case, instead I am working with the Bay Area Pure Love Alliance, and we are going to begin introducing CLUE in public schools around this area now. This is definitely a movement that will spread like wildfire. I am proud to be a participant in such an important movement.

The Pure Love Alliance is launching a new sexual revolution. The Summer of Love has proven its worthlessness and damage, now it's time to fix this social flaw, called Casual-Sex, there is nothing CASUAL about it. If there is one thing I learned in Chicago, it is that sex is something that is sacred, and should NOT be given out freely! The young Pure Love Alliance members, and myself, have made a commitment to ourselves and our families to be sexually abstinent before marriage, but it doesn't end there. Relationships should be based on Love, not on Sex. In preparation for this, I plan to cultivate my ability to love; I plan to build my character into something that can surpass such superficial things as possessions, money, or just sex. Don't give in to the demands of society's lies. Join the Revolution!

**How Can You Help?** Sign the Pure Love Pledge, Go to <http://www.purelove.org> • Ask your school to start the Pure Love curriculum • Set up a coalition of organizations in Bay Area for Pure Love Rallies '99 • Support the PLA by using our pure love phone cards, \$10-20-min., \$20-40-min. (\$10 donation included) tax deductible • The PLA of SF Bay Area is now promoting the Pure Love curriculum in public schools. Energetic young members are ready to present 10-session classes for free.



The Pure Love curriculum in public schools really made a big difference!

% agreeing with the Pure Love Statement before & after PLA training

before 37% after 74%

Teenagers can abstain from sexual activities until they are married.

The best way to avoid STDs and unwanted pregnancy is to wait until marriage to have sex.

64% 100%

I want Pure Love in my life!  
The Pure Love Pledge

The pure relationship between a man and a woman is a cherished and honored for the sake of building a true family and a world of peace for future generations. Therefore, starting today, I commit myself to:

**Respect** and honor the ideal of purity in myself and others  
**Practice** pure love as a child, friend, spouse, and parent  
**Refrain** from all sexual relationship before marriage  
**Dedicate** myself to absolute fidelity within marriage  
**Encourage** others to do the same.

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## TIDY

FROM PAGE 3

coats of wax polish in a slightly darker shade than the wood," Frame says.

Choose the best dustcloth you can find. It should be thick cotton, properly hemmed. If the hem is oversewn, always fold it over to avoid snagging on uneven surfaces.

Use three buckets of water to wash floors. The first bucket should contain a small amount of pure detergent; the second and third should be clear water for first and final rinses.

Use dry chamois leather to wipe mirrors to a clear, lint-free shine.

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**ARTIST SONIA GILL**  
focuses on the intimate landscape of her garden and her orchard for painting subjects.



## Red Oak Gallery shows Sonia Gill art

### RED OAK REALTY

**BERKELEY** — Light and color are the dominant themes in the rich and vibrant watercolor landscape paintings of Northern California artist Sonia Gill. With studios in Berkeley and Yorkville, Mendocino County, Gill focuses on the intimate landscape of her garden and her orchard. Strong contrasts and intense colors evoke deep emotional responses from the viewer. Ordinary scenes transcend the traditional landscape genre and touch the universal.

Gill's art career began in 1976 when she entered the California College of Arts & Crafts following eight years of teaching French. After graduating from CCA in 1980 with a bachelors of arts in painting, she traveled in Europe for six months with her husband and fellow painter, Jim Grieco. In 1984 she began her "Cactus Series" of oils and watercolors of their Oakland garden. Gill began her current "Orchard Series," based on their Yorkville orchard, in 1995.

"Magical moments defined by contrasts of light and dark spark strong emotions within me," Gill explained. "I strive to capture it in paint." Creating paintings that manage to be realistic from afar and abstract close up, she adds an unusual and fresh approach to the long tradition of landscape painting.

In addition to teaching at Albany Adult School and the Martinez Senior Center (under the auspices of the Martinez Adult School), Gill divides her time between studios in Berkeley and Yorkville. She has participated in many shows in California and has won several awards including a purchase award by the San Francisco Arts Commission. Her work is in private collections throughout the United States.

During this exhibit, Gill will donate a portion of her artwork sale proceeds to Red Oak's non-profit organization the "Red Oak Opportunity Foundation" (ROOF). ROOF provides funding assistance to dozens of needy local charities which

do not receive significant funding from other resources.

To view or purchase these paintings, visit the Red Oak Gallery, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sonia will be exhibiting her watercolors at the Red Oak Gallery at 1891 Solano Avenue in Berkeley from Aug. 23 through Oct. 22. There is a reception scheduled for Friday, Aug. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. where you will be able to meet the artist. The newly opened Bistro Viole has generously offered to donate a sampling of their hors d'oeuvres during the reception. For more information call 510-527-3387.



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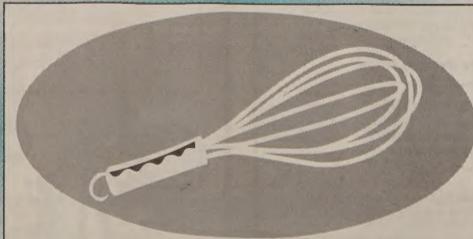
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# Hiring a contractor requires more research than checking out the local phone book

You've decided it is time to do some work on your house. You know you don't want to do it yourself and have decided to hire a professional contractor to do it for you.

Choosing the right contractor for an addition or remodeling job is one of the most difficult problems facing home owners today, but it can be done.

The success of any remodeling job depends upon the amount of preparation and planning that is done before entering into a contract with a contractor.

Unfortunately, most consumers are not aware of the steps necessary to do this pre-planning properly.

One of the most common mistakes people make when hiring contractors is not to have a written contract and a detailed set of plans and specifications that clearly state the scope of the job.

Without a contract and a detailed set of plans, your entire job could be subject to interpretation by the contractor. This is where almost all construction problems and complaints stem from.

Your contract should include a specific start and completion date for the work, and a specific definition of what will determine when the job is complete.

If the job must be done by a certain date, put that in the contract along with a daily penalty (\$100 per day or whatever you and your contractor agree on) for every day



JOHN SCHNEIDER AND TONI WILSON

the job runs over.

Your contract should clearly state what work is to be done, the type and quality of material to be used, and that permits for all work are to be obtained and signed off when the work is completed. This will prevent the contractor from installing lesser quality materials and ensure that someone will inspect their work.

You will also want to specify what the terms of payment will be.

Remember, a contractor cannot charge more than \$1,000 or 10 percent of the contract price as a down payment.

As the job progresses, your contractor will be entitled to payments for work completed.

Determine before hand when progress payments will be made, and how much the payment will consist of. The payment should reflect the amount of work completed.

It is also important to establish the contractor's hourly rate for any work not specifically covered in the contract and whether or not a change order needs to be written up and signed by both parties before the additional work begins.

Almost every remodeling job will have change orders or additional

work that is necessary, but not part of the original contract.

Find out what it is going to cost you before you sign your contract.

Besides having a detailed contract and set of plans, there is one more thing that you must do before actually hiring a contractor, and that is to verify his credibility.

This is the second most common mistake that people make.

You will need to check the contractor's license number with the California State Contractor's License Board by calling 800-321-CSLB or visiting their Web site at www.csib.ca.gov.

You will also want to verify the fact that the contractor has liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance by asking for a current copy of the policies.

And then actually check the references.

Checking references can be a real eye opener. Call previous clients and ask questions such as: "Did the contractor show up and complete the job on time? Were you satisfied with the quality of the work? Was the job performed for the agreed upon price?" and "Would you refer this contractor to a friend or family member?"

Finally, don't base your decision to go with one contractor or another on price alone. If your contractors all bid off the same plans and specifications, price differences are usually associated with the quality of workmanship and materials.

To determine how this may affect your job, you must go and see the quality of work that the different contractors have done.

ily member?"

Finally, don't base your decision to go with one contractor or another on price alone. If your contractors all bid off the same plans and specifications, price differences are usually associated with the quality of workmanship and materials.

To determine how this may affect your job, you must go and see the quality of work that the different contractors have done.

If the quality of workmanship is acceptable to you, and you have gone through the steps mentioned above, you should be able to decide which contractor you will want to work with.

The California Contractors State License Board has some valuable information on hiring a contractor and writing a contract.

You can request these free publications by writing to CSLB Publications at PO Box 26000 Sacramento, CA 95826. Ask for What You Should Know Before You Hire A Contractor and Home Improvement Contracts. You can also order these through their Web site.

**John Schneider and Toni Wilson** operate All About Homes, a home inspection company specializing in construction and code consultation service. They have over 30 years of combined experience in the real estate and construction industries.

Readers may address questions and comments to All About Homes, 24326 Mission Boulevard, Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. FAX: 537-8666.

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## Insulation helps reduce annoying home sounds

By Gene Austin  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

**Q:** We recently moved into a new home, and are now hearing all kinds of sounds from room to room, including noises from bathrooms, water pipes, family-room music in the bedrooms, and so forth. Couldn't this be prevented with insulation in interior walls and floors? Can insulating still be done?

**A:** Insulation can help reduce sound transmission from room to room, and is being increasingly used in new homes for this purpose, according to Tom Newton, a spokesman for CertainTeed Corp. of Valley Forge, Pa., a leading insulation manufacturer.

Newton said many builders routinely use sound-deadening insulation in bathrooms, but that insulation for other areas, such as home

offices, media rooms and bedrooms, is generally an extra-cost option.

It is much easier to effectively install sound-deadening insulation during construction, when there is access to the interiors of walls and floors. Blankets or "batts" of fiberglass insulation can be placed in the open walls or floors and corners and crevices can be filled.

It also is possible to take additional sound-deadening measures during construction, such as installing resilient metal channels to support the drywall on one side of a wall.

Enclosed walls or floors can still be insulated after construction by cutting small access holes and pumping particles of insulation into the cavities, but the cost rises along with the difficulty and also because

of the need to repair and redecorate after insulating.

Some relatively simple measures can help reduce noise between rooms. For example, if any rooms have hollow-core doors, replace them with solid doors. If in doubt about a door, rap on it with the knuckles; a hollow door has an unmistakable hollow sound.

Also use weather-stripping "sweeps" at the bottoms of interior doors to eliminate gaps at floors. Thick carpets and pads on floors can also help reduce noise transmission.

**Q:** Birds perch on my roof and other surfaces around my house and make a mess on the front steps with their droppings. How can I get rid of them?

**A:** A number of products are available to keep birds such as pi-

geons from perching on roofs and ledges. Most of these products do not harm the birds. An often-used device is a strip of metal bristling with sharp spikes. The strips are attached to the ledge, roof ridge or other surface. A source is Bird-B-Gone, Mission Viejo, Calif. (1-800-782-8777). Special wires, nets and a sticky gel also are available from Bird-B-Gone.

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## DON'TS

FROM PAGE 4

spoons on display?

Ask yourself what you can live without while the property is on the market.

Realtors aren't asking you to create new, life-changing, habits. All they ask is a commitment to tidiness for the length of the listing.

This makes your life easier too. When an open house or showing is scheduled you don't have to run around frantically looking for a place to show things.

If you're short on funds press a friend or relative into service who has experience in the type of work that you need to have done.

If you don't know an expert, hire one. A licensed contractor...offers you some insurance if things go wrong later.

The exterior is "decorated" too: The idea of "curb appeal" has been around since the first primitive man and woman found a cave and cleared away the brush from the entrance to their new home.

Cut back the shrubs and branches that obscure the windows, walkways and front door. Repaint or stain the door if needed.

Replace that rotting and curling

welcome mat with one that looks welcoming.

Be merciless — give dead and dying potted plants a decent burial.

If your deck or lawn furniture looks fatigued store it until you really need it again. Get those garbage cans out of sight. The only chance you may have to make a positive impression may come from a buyer driving by.

**Storage spaces:** Although we don't think of our linen or clothes closets as being decorated, it is important that they too have eye appeal. Group everything that is similar neatly together. Organize personal products or cosmetics out of sight in plastic boxes from the dollar store.

Or cover shoe boxes with wrapping paper for attractive and private storage.

If your linen closet is jammed, try to find a large and inexpensive basket. Roll up the towels or wash cloths and tuck some pretty soaps, or shells, or silk ivy into the basket and leave it on display on the newly vanity counter top.

If you are investing a little for a better return, closet organizers are a great place to put your money. You can do it yourself or hire a service. At least hang like with like. All the short stuff like shirts, and the longer things like slacks, should be grouped together.

**About "doing it yourself":** If you don't know what you are doing,

ing, don't do it! Particularly in areas such as wiring, pest damage and repairing tile and grout. If you're short on funds press a friend or relative into service who has experience in the type of work that you need to have done.

If you don't know an expert, hire one. A licensed contractor knows all about pulling permits and offers you some insurance if things go wrong later.

If it isn't done right the first time it's going to cost more to make it right. The last thing that you want to do is spend time, energy and money creating something that will be the very first thing that the new owners tear out.

Realtors often have video tapes on staging, or preparing to show your property, that they can lend you.

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**Mary D'Angelo** is a Career Consultant with Century 21 Diablo Valley Realty. Her experience includes real estate sales and the design of License Training programs for the Century 21 system in Northern California and Nevada.

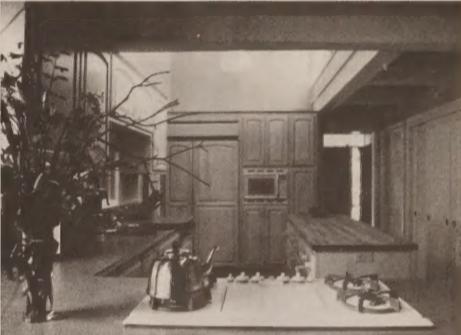
Readers may contact her at Century 21 Diablo Valley, 4691 A Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 or

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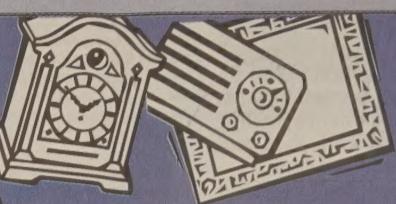
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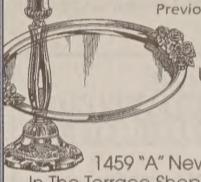
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